

Guerrillas snatch Israeli-allied militiaman

TYRE (AFP) — Guerrillas of the pro-Syrian Amal movement on Wednesday seized a militiaman of Israel's proxy South Lebanon army inside the Israeli-occupied border zone of southern Lebanon, security sources said. Hassan Ali Khalil Nasrallah, 23, was snatched by the guerrillas on a road near the village of Houla in the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone," the sources said. The guerrillas fled the zone and took the militiaman, who is usually based at an SLA post in Shumariyeh, near Houla, to one of their offices in the southern port city of Tyre, the sources said. The pro-Syrian movement was expected to hold a press conference Thursday to give details of the militiaman's arrest. Lebanon-based guerrilla groups often try to capture the militiamen to swap them with Lebanese prisoners detained in SLA and Israeli jails.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية اردنية. الراي

Jordan-bound sheep ablaze aboard ship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Concerns were heard Wednesday over what Jordan was doing about animal rights amid reports that a ship carrying Australian sheep was on fire in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania. Telephone callers to the Jordan Times, including the British Broadcasting Corporation, wanted to know whether Jordan an animal protection society and whether the Kingdom was doing anything about the sheep aboard the ship, UNICEF. The vessel caught fire on its way to Agaba and one of its crewmembers died. Fifty-four others abandoned ship and were rescued, reports said. But the blaze aboard the ship was continuing. It was not known how many sheep were aboard the ship, but the tonnage of the cargo was given at 14,990 tonnes.

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U.S. fires more missiles; Iraq challenges 'no-fly' zone but moves its planes away

17 more Tomahawks fired at southern Iraq and plane attacks radar station

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. WARSHIPS fired more Tomahawk missiles at Iraqi targets and a U.S. warplane attacked a radar site Wednesday as President Saddam Hussein challenged the new "no-fly" zone imposed by Washington.

The U.S. Defence Department said it was confident the second salvo of cruise missiles in as many days, fired at southern Iraq from ships in the Gulf, had succeeded in ensuring the safety of allied air patrols. After the barrage, U.S. British and French warplanes began enforcing an expanded no-fly zone over southern Iraq, in an operation dubbed "Southern Watch," U.S. military officials said.

France, which has not backed the U.S. attacks, said its planes restricted their patrols to the former exclusion zone.

In the first known case of Iraqi resistance to the expansion, a U.S. F-16

Clinton: Mission accomplished

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton said on Wednesday the U.S. mission to force Iraq to withdraw its forces from a northern Kuwaiti area at least for the time being.

"Our mission has been achieved," Mr. Clinton told reporters, called to the Oval Office. "There has been a withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the area, but it's too soon to say that this is permanent, or that the Iraqi forces will not be back."

The air strikes, the missile strikes, they were successful, but the mission was not successful, Mr. Clinton said.

"The targets were not destroyed or sufficiently damaged so that you can say that our mission has been achieved," he said. "On a related note, the Clinton said U.S. forces had nothing to do with explosions and not after all the reports of explosions in Baghdad on Wednesday. They are not the result of any of our attacks, he said."

fighter inside the new zone struck an Iraqi radar site with a Harm anti-radiation missile after being targeted, U.S. officials said.

Iraq earlier rejected the expanded zone declared by U.S. President Bill Clinton and vowed to resist "tooth and nail."

Despite its rhetoric, Iraq on Wednesday pulled some 30 tactical fixed-wing aircraft from the south of the country shortly before the enforcement of the new extended no-fly zone in the

area at 0800 GMT. Iraq "pulled out about 30 aircraft from the area 30 to 90 minutes before the enforcement of the expanded zone took effect," said a Western military source.

Western military sources said Iraq was seen flying Russian MiG and Sukhoi warplanes out of the area.

Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire into the night skies over Baghdad on Wednesday evening after air raid sirens were heard across the capital.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said no U.S. aircraft were reported to have come under fire.

The four-barrelled guns lit up the sky as they fired bursts in three waves over 30 minutes, the first time the city's air defences have gone into action since U.S. forces began launching missile attacks on Iraq on Tuesday.

Drivers fled the area at top speed sounding their horns, while pedestrians ran for shelter.

A separate explosion was also heard about five minutes after the anti-aircraft fire began at 9:00 p.m. (1700 GMT), but its cause was not immediately known and officials did not comment.

The Iraqi army said one person was killed and seven wounded in the latest American missile strike, on top of the five soldiers dead and 19 people including civilians injured the previous day.

The U.S. Joint Chiefs-of-Staff vice chairman, General Joseph Ralston, said 17 cruise missiles were launched at four Iraqi targets during Wednesday's raid.

Further action depends on President Saddam's actions, the general said.

Because of difficulties in assessing the damage from the initial attack, carried out by B-52 bombers and U.S. warships in the Gulf, "we thought it prudent to go back with a restrike," Gen. Ralston said.

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Parliament denounces U.S. attacks, calls for collective Arab response

By Tareq Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday strongly condemned "the American aggression on Iraq and Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and people in violation of all international principles and laws" and urged Arab leaders to shelve their differences and coordinate their stands to counter "the dangers."

A statement issued by the House reaffirmed Jordan's "principled stand as voiced by His Majesty King Hussein in connection with Iraq's territorial integrity and the need for its people to solve their internal problems without any outside interference."

"The Lower House of Parliament strongly condemns the American aggression on Iraq and

Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and people in violation of all international laws," said the statement, which was issued after a meeting between House members and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

"The American aggression... which lacked international backing... is a manifestation of the U.S. arrogance and was motivated purely by domestic American considerations," it added.

In view of this aggression the Lower House of Parliament reaffirms the following principled stands:

— The House reaffirms the principled stands as voiced by King Hussein with regard to the need of safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and allowing its

people to solve their internal problems with no foreign intervention.

— The American aggression on Iraq will plunge the region again into a cycle of violence and tension at a time when the Arab Nation and the world community are trying to help Iraq and its neighbours to overcome the consequences of the Gulf war.

— While condemning the American aggression on Iraq (in retaliation for) moving its forces within Iraqi territory the House calls on the world community and the countries neighbouring Iraq to end their flagrant interference in that country and their encroachment on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

— While denouncing the American aggression, the

(Continued on page 7)

World criticism grows against Iraq strikes; some see attacks as Clinton's election ploy

American action is void of Arab support

Combined agency dispatches

THE ARABS and Iran were united Wednesday in criticising the U.S. missile strikes on Iraq, with some accusing President Bill Clinton of using military might to bolster his reelection campaign.

Syria and Egypt, America's main Arab partners in the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, expressed strong reservations.

More hardline countries like Libya and Iran were vehement in denouncing the missile strikes.

Yemen denounced the U.S. missile strikes against Iraq and said Saudi Arabia refused to have the attacks launched from its territory.

"Yemen, which believes this attack is unjustified, pays tribute to the position of brother countries, especially Saudi Arabia which refused to allow the attacking planes to take off from its territory," the official Yemeni daily Al Thawra said.

Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally in the region, has kept total silence about the visit Sunday to the kingdom by the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs-of-Staff, General John Shalikashvili, before the U.S. attacks.

There are 6,200 U.S. military personnel based in Saudi Arabia, mainly airmen, enforcing the allied-imposed "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq.

Al Thawra said the U.S. attack was "unacceptable and constitutes a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and violation of the U.N. Charter and international law."

The official Yemeni news agency SABA carried an official government statement saying the "American attack is a blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and is a violation of international law."

SABA said earlier that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh had consulted Tuesday by telephone with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd about "developments in the region."

Mr. Saleh also talked over the telephone about regional issues with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

Yemen supported Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Gulf Arab foreign ministers will meet in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Saturday to discuss Iraq's offensive in its Kurdish north and the U.S. retaliation.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups the six oil countries, stressed the "special importance" of the two-day meeting which will tackle "regional and international developments."

The foreign ministers from the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, will also discuss the Arab-Israeli peace process, the GCC said in a statement.

Newspapers throughout the Arab World also were scathing in condemning the United States, accusing it of trying to destroy Iraq as a sovereign nation.

It was unclear how such opposition would affect U.S. policy in the region.

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Russia warns of 'catastrophic' consequences, threatens to veto U.N. resolution against Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

RUSSIA WARNED Wednesday of "catastrophic" consequences if the United States continues missile strikes against Iraq while China urged Washington not to take new action against Baghdad.

France for its part expressed reservations over a second salvo of U.S. missiles against Iraq Wednesday, but Britain renewed its backing for the U.S. action.

Russia also said it will veto a British resolution to condemn Iraq as Security Council diplomats split over a response to Baghdad's moves which led to the U.S. attacks.

The 15-member council failed to agree on a response Tuesday and agreed to resume discussions Wednesday afternoon.

Britain submitted a draft resolution Tuesday condemning Iraq for the invasion and demanding an immediate withdrawal of troops from the north. The resolution made no mention of the two U.S. cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq.

In Vaduz, Liechtenstein, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Moscow would veto the British resolution. "We shall veto it in this form," Mr. Primakov told Russia's ITAR-TASS news

agency. "A Security Council resolution should be universal. It should condemn the use of force and demand an immediate switch to a political settlement."

Britain submitted the resolution after the United States asked that the council take up the Iraqi army raid on the Kurdish city of Erbil.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador Edward Gnehm told the council there were "widespread reports of mass executions, detentions, looting and house-to-house searches by the (Iraqi) secret police" in areas overrun by Iraqi forces.

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France urges 'oil-for-food' talks

PARIS (Agencies) — French government spokesman Alain Lamassoure on Wednesday called for dialogue to revive a United Nations resolution permitting Iraq to sell oil for food.

Application of the resolution was suspended by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on Sunday after Iraqi military operations against Kurds in the north of the country.

Speaking on French radio, Mr. Lamassoure said: "It is desirable to return to dialogue so as to put into application the 'oil-for-food' agreement as soon as possible."

However, Iraq's imminent return to world oil markets after six years of crippling sanctions appears to have become a casualty of the latest crisis between the United States and Saddam Hussein.

Last week, Dr. Ghali was on the verge of giving the final go-ahead for Iraq to resume oil sales under an agreement Baghdad accepted last June after rejecting it for years.

Then, Baghdad sent its troops into the

northern Kurdish city of Erbil. The United States responded by firing cruise missiles at Iraqi military targets on Tuesday and Wednesday. President Clinton then served notice that, for the time being, the "oil-for-food" deal is on hold.

"Until we are sure these humanitarian supplies can actually get to those who need them, the plan cannot go forward, and the Iraqi government will be denied the new resources it has been expecting," Mr. Clinton said.

Britain's Deputy U.N. Ambassador Stephen Gomersall agreed. "A return to the status quo is indeed a prerequisite for the implementation of the plan," he said.

Even before the U.S. attack, Dr. Ghali announced Sunday he was delaying the arrival of 46 U.N. personnel out of concern for their safety. The personnel were to monitor sales of Iraqi oil and the distribution of food and medicine purchased with the profits.

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat shake hands across the table at the start of their meeting at the Erez Crossing on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Arafat, Netanyahu meet, but no hint of breakthrough

Combined agency dispatches

EREZ CROSSING — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met for the first time Wednesday, exchanging an historic handshake but offering few hints that any concrete breakthroughs in the stalled peace process were imminent.

Following a 75 minutes of talks at this crossing point from the Gaza Strip into Israel, Mr. Netanyahu pledged to honour all Israel's commitments under the interim agreement on Palestinian self-rule signed by the previous Labour government.

"Both sides reiterate their commitment to the interim agreements and their determination to carry out its implementation," Mr. Netanyahu said in a prepared statement.

But he added, "we have to take into account the needs and the requirements on both sides on the basis of reciprocity and the assur-

Arafat thanks King Hussein; Jordan welcomes meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Wednesday called His Majesty King Hussein for his "valuable support and appreciation of the King for his efforts in support of the Palestinian stand for the peace process."

Mr. Arafat also thanked the King for the outcome of his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reaffirming the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process.

The Jordanian monarch issued a statement welcoming the meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat.

The statement described the meeting as a necessary step for achieving progress in the peace process and said Jordan welcomed it, and hoped for "the resumption of negotiations in a way to find a definitive solution in line with the principles that have been signed."

The statement also expressed the Jordanian side's concern for the security and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians alike.

"If security breaks down, we have seen that the peace process breaks down," he said. "This is a principle, it's not a trick."

During the joint press conference with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Netanyahu announced no breakthroughs in any of the

(Continued on page 7)

Further limits on Iraqi aircraft meant to bolster Saudi security

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Expanding a "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq will further limit the reach of the Iraqi army and thus improve security for Saudi Arabia and other Middle East allies, U.S. officials say.

"What we are looking for primarily is deterrence — deterrence of future military adventures" by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Defence Secretary William Perry told a Pentagon news conference.

Although it has little direct impact on Iraq's military attacks against a faction of Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, the new restrictions on Iraqi forces in the south are an important security step, said Mr. Perry.

Mr. Perry said the main U.S. concern is potential Iraqi threats against Saudi Arabia. The expansion of the air restrictions to the outskirts of Iraq came after President Bill Clinton announced a U.S. cruise missile attack on Iraqi targets in the south.

American warplanes for several years have patrolled the area of southern Iraq below the 32nd Parallel to the Kuwaiti border to ensure that no Iraqi aircraft are flying. This restriction initially was meant as a way of protecting the Shiite minority population in that area.

As of noon Wednesday the restricted zone was extended north to the 33rd Parallel, bringing it just south of the capital of Baghdad. Although the Iraqi government vowed to ignore the restrictions, Mr. Perry said U.S. warplanes would show down any Iraqi planes that violated them.

"This is not an issue in which they have a vote," Mr. Perry said.

Many of the targets of the 27 U.S. cruise missiles that were fired early Tuesday were in the portion of southern Iraq that will become part of the expanded no-fly zone. A second strike on Wednesday was to ensure that Iraqi air defences are destroyed in this area to protect U.S. air patrols.

Air force General Joseph Ralston, vice chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, told reporters there had been no decision on whether to exclude Iraqi armour or other ground forces, in addition to aircraft, from the expanded zone.

The expansion of the no-fly zone almost to Baghdad's suburbs will hand America's oil-rich Gulf allies valuable extra warning time of potential trouble from Baghdad, analysts said.

The extension of the Western-imposed air exclusion zone will also deliver a humiliating internal political blow to the Iraqi president by weakening his ability to use force against his own people, diplomats said.

"It's not a just a matter of additional real estate. It backs him (Saddam) right up to his capital. It also denies him effective use of a huge chunk of his air force transport staging capability," a senior diplomat said in Kuwait.

"My assessment is the most significant action was not the missile strikes but the expansion of the zone," the envoy said.

"The basic issue is that Iraq is a threat to its neighbours and he (Saddam) has brought this on himself," said a diplomat.

"It takes the whole of the Shiite south out of the reach

of his air force and is therefore a very clear signal not to suppress his own people. And I suspect that the move is also designed to humiliate him internally," the diplomat said.

Diplomats said the shift would deprive Baghdad of the use of three military airfields that in the past have been key staging points for moving military units south towards the Gulf.

It will also remove the Shiite holy city of Karbala and the northern surroundings of the major Shiite centre of Najaf out of the firing line of the Iraqi air force.

In addition the new zone deprives Iraq of the use of an important training area near Karbala that is the Iraqi military's main centre for combined air-and-ground training.

"From now on the only air force that will be accompanying any ground troops on manoeuvres there will be ours," one American analyst said.

Western allies imposed the southern no-fly zone in 1992 to protect Iraqi Shiites who mounted a failed rebellion after the 1991 Gulf war ended Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Iraqi military power in the south was further curbed in late 1994 following a 10-day border confrontation with Kuwait when the United States and Britain warned Iraq it would face grave consequences if it increased any kind of military power south of the 32nd Parallel.

That warning, aimed at protecting Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, remains in effect and is still linked to the 32nd Parallel.

Officers in Kuwait's mili-

tary, still recovering from its destruction during Iraq's lightning 1990 invasion and subsequent occupation, said they strongly welcomed the wider zone.

"This bigger zone reduces the threat, because you will have better reaction time and better early warning," a senior Kuwaiti military officer said. "The more time you have, the more warning you have."

President Saddam has ordered his forces to ignore the no-fly zones and shoot down any hostile aircraft over Iraqi territory.

Intelligence sources in London told Reuters that the danger for southern watch planes was that President Saddam's own aircraft might try to lure them into the line of fire of surface to air missile (SAM) defences protecting Baghdad.

But the Kuwaiti officer and other experts said they were confident Western warplanes would be able to suppress any fire from Baghdad's air defences. Iraq's heavy concentration of SAMs, and there was no significant additional risk to Western planes.

The extension of the zone will have "a symbolic rather than a practical effect," according to Mohammed Abdul Jabbar, an official with the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) in London who was contacted from Dubai.

"The main point of it is humiliating Saddam Hussein with overflights that cross the southern reaches of Baghdad," he said. "But it will not prevent him from sending his armoured forces and infantry to the north or the south."

Journalist faces trial

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A journalist will be put on trial soon on charges of "inciting sedition" in connection with the riots in the south last month, sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the prosecution had sent the charge sheet against Fawad Hussein, a reporter for the Arabic-language daily Al Aswaq, to the State Security Court and a date for the trial could be set soon.

Mr. Hussein, reportedly a member of the pro-Baghdad Jordanian Arab Baath Socialist Party (JABSP), was arrested on Aug. 19, four days after the riots broke out and two days after the situation was brought under control.

Officials accused the ruling Baath Party in Iraq of instigating the riots through JABSP activists in Jordan. The party has denied the accusation.

"Hussein will be charged with instigating sedition, a charge which carries a sentence of three years to life imprisonment," said one source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another journalist, Osama Rantisi, chief editor of Al Ahli weekly, remained in detention and it was not immediately known whether the authorities intended to put him on trial.

Al Ahli is the mouthpiece of the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP).

According to the sources, no other journalist remains in detention in connection with the riots in the south.

Three other journalists were reportedly sought by police amid confusion over their whereabouts, but the sources indicated on Wednesday the trio were no longer on the wanted list.

Four journalists of the Al Bilad weekly were detained for a few days and released last week pending their trial on charges of violating the Press and Publications Law.

The alleged violation, according to the prosecution, came when Al Bilad carried "misleading and inaccurate stories" of the unrest in the south.

The weekly had reported that an infant died after inhaling tear gas during the riots, a member of Parliament was arrested, military planes were deployed over Karak and that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had asked his supporters in Jordan not to take part in the unrest.

All the reports, according to the prosecution, were unfounded, but that such stories served "to stir people's emotions and instigate sedition."

That case will be tried by a special court set up to deal with violations of the Press and Publications Law.

According to official sources, 144 people could face charges related to the riots, 38 of them members of political parties.

Rafsanjani slams U.S. attacks on Iraq as 'election tactics'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani launched a scathing attack on both U.S. and Iraqi leaders, calling them "demagogues" who pursue their personal interests at the expense of the Iraqi people, newspapers reported Wednesday.

"It appears that the electoral campaign in the United States is deciding the fate of other people in the world," Mr. Rafsanjani told Iranian journalists on Tuesday from Nairobi, Kenya, where he is on an African tour.

U.S. President Bill Clinton is a demagogue because he attacks Iraq just to collect votes," he said, referring to a U.S. missile attack on Iraq on Tuesday. "People are being victimised in a human catastrophe and international laws are trampled on."

The president also attacked Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, saying his military offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan which led to the U.S. raid was "also indefensible."

"Baghdad's immature move led to an even more immature act from the United States," he said.

"Saddam portrays himself as a national hero by defying the U.N. resolutions while Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says Iraqi troops are withdrawing from northern Iraq. This shows that they all are practising demagoguery," he said.

President Saddam said after the strike on Tuesday that his country would no longer respect the no-fly zones imposed by Western allies over southern and northern Iraq and ordered his army to shoot down allied aircraft flying over Iraq.

Mr. Rafsanjani urged rival Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq to "understand that the United States and Saddam do not like them

and that by fighting each other they are only providing them with excuses."

"America only defends its own interests and has no regards for others — be they Kurds, Turks, Arabs or Persians," he charged.

Iran has repeatedly called for an end to the presence of U.S. and other Western forces in the region and calls for feuding Iraqi Kurds to reach a settlement on their own.

Iraqi government forces and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Saturday stormed into Erbil, the main city in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, to drive out the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Baghdad said it was heeding a call for help from KDP to fight the PUK, which both Iraq and the KDP accuse of being supported by Iran.

But Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran had good relations with "all Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, but track down (Iranian) anti-revolutionaries and bandits in the region."

"If we attack these anti-revolutionaries sheltering with one of the (Iraqi) Kurdish groups it doesn't mean we are targeting them," he added.

In July, Iranian forces launched an offensive inside northern Iraq to track down rebels of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, who launch cross-border attacks from Iraq.

The Iranian president said his country was "closely watching the situation in northern Iraq and will not allow the conflict to extend to its borders."

However, the U.S. military operation in Iraq "has nothing to do with Iran. Such developments do not harm us in any way, we only follow them for humanitarian reasons," he said.

Hotel bomb kills two, injures 30 in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — A car bomb blast outside an Algiers hotel killed at least two people and wounded more than 30, but police defused another bomb that could have caused carnage at the same site, press reports said Wednesday.

Tuesday's attack against the Hotel d'Angleterre in the centre of the capital, blamed on anti-government extremists, killed two people on the spot, including the receptionist, the Liberte and Al Watan dailies reported.

However, officers of the civil protection service said between four and six people had been killed, according to the Al Khabar newspaper. The casualty toll given by officials was one dead and 10 injured.

Police experts defused a second bomb shortly before it was timed to explode close to the first, where it would have caused "carnage" among the security forces, rescue workers and others at the scene, Liberte reported.

Israel takes precautions in case of Iraqi attack

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel is reportedly taking preliminary precautions in case of a surprise attack from Iraq, which launched 39 missiles at the Jewish state during the Gulf war.

The "situation is one of alert," air force chief Major General Eitan Ben Eliahu said in an interview published Wednesday in Israel's Haaretz newspaper.

"The air force, as part of its ongoing preparedness, is ready for just such instances, for possible surprises," he added.

The newspaper quoted anonymous military sources as saying preparatory steps were being taken in case of an attack, but gave no details.

Haaretz also said Israel had been given direct access to U.S. satellite information that would provide early warning of any Iraqi missile attack.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured the public that an attack was unlikely but said Israel was monitoring developments.

Efraim Inbar, a specialist on the Middle East strategic balance at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Stud-

ies, said the chances were "very low" that Iraq would attack Israel.

In 1991, the Arab World was largely opposed to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and Baghdad was trying to win Arab support by attacking Israel and drawing them into the war, Mr. Inbar said. This time, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein already has Arab support.

An attack on Israel would also lose Iraq the support of countries such as Russia and France, which have criticised the U.S. action, Mr. Inbar said.

In addition, he said, Iraq's military capabilities are more limited than in 1991, and a missile attack on Israel would prove that Baghdad had lied when he claimed Iraq no longer has such weapons.

"If he attacked Israel it would give the United States an excuse to launch even harder attacks and he doesn't want to give them that excuse," Mr. Inbar said. "He's not interested in escalation."

On the other hand, Mr. Inbar added, the Iraqi leader is not a fully rational decision-maker.

Sharon has his own plan for Hebron withdrawal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli hardliner Ariel Sharon has put forward his own plan for carrying out Israel's delayed withdrawal from Hebron, one of the key sticking points blocking a full resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The plan would reduce the sections of Hebron which would remain under full Israeli control following the pullback, while significantly increasing the population of the city's Jewish quarter, according to settler leaders who saw the project.

But at the same time Mr. Sharon, currently serving as infrastructure minister in the government of Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wants to maintain the Israeli army's right to operate throughout Hebron.

Under the 1995 interim agreements on Palestinian self-rule, Israel was to hand 80 per cent of the city of 120,000 over to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in March. The redeployment was delayed after a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel.

Under the 1995 Oslo accords, the Israeli army would retain control over the remaining 20 per cent of the city where about 450 militant Jewish settlers live along with about 120,000 Palestinians.

Settler leaders who had been shown Mr. Sharon's

plan told Israel public radio it would reduce the size of the Israeli zone by about 75 per cent, leaving only 2,000 Palestinians under occupation and giving the PNA control over 95 per cent of the city.

On the other hand Mr. Sharon, a fierce proponent of expanding Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where Palestinians hope to create their own state, wants to increase the Jewish population of the city to more than 3,000 by settling Israelis in unoccupied apartments and building new housing.

The plan also calls for building a wall around the Jewish enclave inside Hebron and ensuring "territorial continuity" between the Jewish quarter and the large Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba just north of the city.

Finally Mr. Sharon wants to expand the Israeli army's right to operate in Palestinian sections of the city. Under the Oslo accord, security for the Palestinian sectors would be in the hands of the PNA, with Israel retaining only a right of hot pursuit into these zones in the event of militant attacks on Israelis.

Palestinian officials have categorically refused to negotiate any changes to the 1995 agreement on Hebron, which is the last West Bank town still under Israeli control.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Iris — The Happy Project
15:20 Flintstones
15:45 The Adventures
16:10 Kelly
16:30 The Earth Revealed
17:00 News
17:02 Doo — La France Aux 1000 Villages
17:30 Varieties — L'Invite De Marjorie
18:00 Doo — Les Enfants Du Voyage
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Megane Sport & Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:33 Evening Shade
20:00 Super Stars of Action
20:30 Chancer
21:10 Hunter
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 Bugs

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
06:08 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35 Asr
16:10 Maghreb
19:02 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifflah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 628286

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Mild summer weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with temperatures slightly below average and winds westerly moderate to active. On Thursday, temperatures are expected to rise. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman 18/29

Aqaba 23/37

Deserts 16/33

Jordan Valley 22/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints

661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints

897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs

623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade

617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

843402

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Jordan, Bahrain discuss trade ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — At the start of a two-day meeting Wednesday by the Jordanian-Bahraini Committee, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti declared Jordan's strong desire to further bolster the Kingdom's economic and trade relations with Bahrain.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with the visiting Bahraini Minister of Trade Ali Saleh, Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan is pursuing efforts to bolster ties with the Arab Gulf states and seeks to strengthen solidarity among Arab countries.

Mr. Saleh, who had earlier co-chaired the joint committee meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, Ali Abul Ragheb, said in a statement after meeting Mr. Kabariti that the talks produced identical views between the two sides.

Referring to the work of the joint committee meeting which ends its discussions Thursday, Mr. Saleh said that the committee aims at concluding a number of new agreements designed to further promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

"The projected agreements will provide for free exchanges of national products which will be exempted from customs duty," said Mr. Saleh, adding that the agreements will also give incentives for investments in both countries especially in the transportation sectors.

He said that the Bahraini government has a policy of encouragement toward investment from its private sector to Jordan in view of the country's "opportune



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday meets with Bahraini contingent to discuss strengthening ties with the Gulf region (Petra photo)

[economic] climate."

At the start of the joint committee meeting, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that Jordanian-Bahraini economic cooperation witnessed notable progress over the last few years and that last year Jordanian-Bahraini trade exchanges amounted to a total of JD 43.1 million.

He said that the two sides are deeply satisfied with the outcome of its meeting held in Manama last year and which ended in the conclusion of a free-trade agreement.

Mr. Abul Ragheb voiced Jordan's backing for the government of Bahrain in its drive to ensure security and order following the recent spate of riots in the Bahraini capital saying "Bahrain's security con-

cerns us as its security forms a part of the security of the Arab World."

Mr. Saleh told the meeting that Jordan and Bahrain have a great deal in common and that his country benefited from Jordanian expertise in a number of fields.

On the joint committee's agenda is a number of topics connected with economic cooperation and the two sides will make a revision of previous trade agreements with the aim of exempting exchanged goods from all customs-fees.

The two sides are also expected to focus attention on promoting the private sector with both countries playing a leading role in tourism, transport and education among

other areas.

Following the meeting Mr. Saleh visited Finance Minister Marwan Awad and discussed the projected new trade agreement and the prospect of concluding an agreement between the Amman and Bahraini financial markets as well as areas where private sectors from the two countries can launch joint ventures.

Mr. Saleh also called on Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat who expressed Jordan's availability to provide Bahrain with Jordanian agricultural expertise and products.

Mr. Saleh is scheduled Thursday to visit the Sahab Industrial City on the outskirts of Amman and will tour a number of Jordanian industries.

Workshop aims to relieve adolescent angst

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day workshop initiating a national strategy to improve physical and mental health in adolescents and to enable them to better interact with the local social environment came to its conclusion Wednesday.

Among other issues debated in the conference was the recommendation of the formation of a compilation of different dilemmas under which today's youth labour.

This strategy, the participants hope, will potentiate future resolutions for problems specific to the teenage years.

The workshop, which was organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, issued a statement also recommending that a special youth-oriented broadcasting station be set up and that a series of workshops and seminars be held in which the adolescents

themselves can discuss youth-related problems and project solutions.

According to the statement, the participants called for intensifying programmes aimed at spreading a wider awareness among the youth on matters relevant to their age and proposed that students take compulsory courses at schools dealing with psychology and mental health issues.

Dr. Sabri Rubeihat, a noted sociologist who attended the meetings, presented a report on the need for attention and care during this fragile period and additionally commented that the delegates gave special attention to youth who have special needs, such as the disabled.

The delegates discussed the connection between adolescence and health in general and how the local community can respond to such, as well as the need for procuring accurate, current information, said Dr.

Rubeihat

Other reports emphasised the importance of private and public institutions in improving education and creation of healthy environments to facilitate adolescent development that they better understand and adapt to their own unique situation as well as to the greater community which surrounds them.

The proffered reports pinpointed a wide range of problems and difficulties facing adolescents today including drug addiction, alcoholism, violence, sexual confusion, mood swings, depression, stress and faulty judgement.

They said that the lack of accurate statistics about the range of adolescent dilemmas has impeded their resolution.

Rumours of deputy's resignation refuted

AMMAN (J.T.) — Recent rumours of resignations from one member of parliament as well as the actual resignation of a second has caused much speculation in local press.

Lower House of Parliament member Hani Abbadi from Baqaa Wednesday denied reports that he intended to tender his resignation from Parliament to join an opposition group, whose another member, Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin has indeed, resigned.

"These reports and rumours are baseless and

have not one iota of truth to them," said the deputy from the Baqaa district, in a statement.

Weekly tabloids had earlier quoted Abbadi as saying that he intended to resign to join opposition ranks.

"I take pride in the Jordanian National Parliament and the democracy which Jordan enjoys under the reign of His Majesty King Hussein and I am proud to represent my district in the Lower House of Parliament," said Abbadi who maintained that the idea of joining opposition

ranks had never crossed his mind.

Mr. Ammarin resigned from Parliament last Sunday in protest against what he described as the "insult" he received from Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during the past unrest in Karak and the alleged disregard which the government has been showing toward the legislature.

"My decision is final. The Prime Minister insulted me, the House and my governorate. That makes it impossible for me to remain in the House

"which he claims has failed to take proper action against the government."

Dr. Ammarin is among the 23 member parliamentary group that expressed opposition to the government over the lifting of the bread subsidy and clashed with Mr. Kabariti during the ensuing riots which erupted in the south.

However, sources have told the Jordan Times that mediation efforts were underway to encourage Dr. Ammarin to change his mind about the resignation which was sent to House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour.

New translation of classic arrives today

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Moussa Sardawi, a Palestinian poet who migrated to Sweden has just completed the translation of a literary trilogy by Gunnar Ekelof.

Gunnar Ekelof, born in 1907, is a Swedish poet regarded as a pioneer of modern Swedish poetry, and was first discovered in the Arab World by Egyptian poet Salah Abd Al Sabour.

Ekelof, said Mr. Sardawi, does not represent a school of poetry, rather he has created his own school with which his creative styles have flourished enormously.

Gunnar Ekelof started his career as a poet in the surrealist genre with his first volume "Late on Earth," and was famous for his poetic collections, "Dedication," and "Guide to the Underworld."

His interests in Sufi philosophy and literature is apparent in his work and especially transparent in his book "Vidas" where he expresses his ideas of the unity of the Soul, Body, and Mother Earth.

Mr. Sardawi translated "Prince Emgion's Collection," "The Tale of Faumeh," and the "Guide to the Underworld" from Ekelof's Swedish trilogy and is due in bookstores today.

Three men stand trial for intention to detonate land mines

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court Wednesday set Sept. 19 as the date to begin hearing the case of three men from Ajloun accused of plotting subversion in the Kingdom.

The formal charges pressed by the military prosecutor against Ikremah Mahmoud, 28, an architect, Youssef Ahmad, 27, a teacher, and Ali Mohammad Mustafa, 27, unemployed, includes plotting to carry out extremist attacks, and the possession of illegal explosives with intent of illicit use.

According to the prosecution's charge sheet, the three suspects who resided in the Hashmeh district of Ajloun, "decided to target Israeli tourists visiting Ajloun and Jerash, following the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel."

The sheet said the first

defendant Ikremah Mahmoud knew an officer at the Royal Engineering Corps and asked him to teach him how to steal and detonate land mines.

In November of 1995, the defendants dug 25 land mines from a minefield in the Kafarengheh district of Ajloun and hid the explosives in a cave near the minefield for later use against Israeli tourists, the charge sheet stated.

On Feb. 2, 1996 the three defendants went to the cave, collected the mines, placed them in bags, then stopped a pick-up truck and asked the driver to give them a ride to the Hashmeh district.

A police officer in civilian clothes was riding the pick-up truck with the defendants and became suspicious of the three men, informing a police unit that was parked near the Kafarengheh intersection where the men had descended, it added.

A search ensued and police found the land mines in the bags they were carrying. The three were immediately booked, said the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, the State Security Court today will start hearing witnesses in the case of an attorney who is charged with slandering His Majesty King Hussein in June, 1996.

Mohammad Salameh Dwaik, 42, was arrested on June 13 after his neighbours complained to the authorities that he made remarks that were slanderous to the King and the government. He was released from Jewish prison after one week's time.

During the first court session in July, Mr. Dwaik pleaded innocent to the charge of slandering King Hussein.

Mr. Dwaik is also standing trial at a civil court for insulting the government.

Conference to promote vocational education

AMMAN (Petra) — Experts in vocational and technical training from eight countries will today open a four-day meeting dedicated to discussing the incorporation of vocational and technical training into the general education system; a procedure which would involve training students in addition to offering them an academic education.

Delegates and reports will also focus on the contribution of vocational training to overall development, the experimentation of a number of participating countries with vocational and technical training and case studies

from advanced countries.

Participants in the meeting, organised by the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IESCO), will hail from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Morocco.

As well, Ali Nasrallah Director-General of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) announced Wednesday that a total of 15,400 male and female trainees will be enrolled at the VTC's vocational training

centres in Jordan for the 1996-97 scholastic year.

Mr. Nasrallah said that the VTC will introduce this year new courses to train students in trades necessary to the Jordanian labour market, and to this end it has set up a special committee to contact the various industrial and economic institutions including the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Ministry of Labour.

He said that among the projected new trades are watch repair, cobbling, decoration, and repair of delicate instruments and equipment.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Samia Halaby" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal

Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art

Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until

Sept. 11.

* Works by artist Abeer Abu Joodih at Alia Art

Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.

* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun,

Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

Telecommunications conference ends on high note

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab States Telecommunications Colloquium in Amman ended Wednesday with the adoption of draft recommendations, issued by the participating groups, which are slated for formal approval by the "Arab States Regional Telecommunication Development Conference" (ARB-RTDC) to be held in Beirut in November 1996.

The meeting's final session was dedicated to the summation of the decisions taken and discussion thereof. Referring to several amendments suggested by the delegates, Director-General of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) Ahmed Laouyane stressed that the achievements reached are not final decisions and that this conference does not demonstrate any official declaration from the part of any government.

"This is a meeting of specialists and does not represent any particular state or government," he said.

"It was not the colloquium's aim to merely issue

recommendations or results but to exchange opinions and thoughts regarding the development of the telecommunication sector in the Arab region.

"To benefit from the experiences given is the main objective of our meeting," Chairman Sami Basheer, director-general of the Saudi Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone stated during the opening of debate on the results reached.

"The conference aimed at the promotion of telecommunication through any means possible and at the seeking of financial resources to develop same," he continued.

Expressing an objection, Youssef Abdulmonem of the Lebanese delegation stated that the communication infrastructure in Arab countries not only needs improvement but also qualified staff to manage the sector, which must be included among investment priorities. According to Mr. Abdulmonem, such funds have to be raised from the private sector to be given a chance to enter the market.

He also saw the need for more accessible regulations to make investments easier

for the private sector and thus encourage it to do so.

Addressing this objection, Mr. Basheer said that privatisation is not the sole theory adopted to solve financial problems and that the ITU helps to undertake studies examining and solving telecommunication problems in the Arab region but does not take care of specific problems, such as privatisation.

The suggestions issued by the working groups during the meeting comprised draft recommendations on tariffs and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as well as on private sector participation and sources of financing other than government funds, like multilateral and bilateral lending, and finally on financing international, regional and technical cooperation projects.

It is the papers' purported tenor to encourage privatisation, to increase liberalisation — which equals transparency of government regulations concerning investment from the private sector — and to implement further commercialisation.

"We need to set up a legal

framework for foreign investments to give the private sector a guarantee of profit and needed facilities. A clear policy and goals on the part of the government is essential," Mr. Laouyane stated.

Concerning tariffs, the working groups stressed the need to lower international ones to reduce illegal practices, like the call-back system which provides cheap phone calls to foreign countries, and also requesting the BDT's assistance to embark upon relevant research and ideally construct organisations to halt such practices.

The draft papers will be rectified by the ITU at a later date and then become part of the so-called "green paper" which will be presented by the Arab States to the Telecommunication Conference in Beirut, according to the director-general of the BDT.

In his closing speech, he praised the achievements which had been attained during the conference.

"We were able to assemble delegates representing the highest level of Arab telecommunication administrations as well as the

leading companies from the private sector who showed a willingness to invest in the Arab telecommunication market," Mr. Laouyane stated.

"I appreciated the very frank speeches focusing on the current situation of the telecommunication market in the Arab World which expressed feelings and beliefs towards its development," Mr. Laouyane continued.

During the meeting, he added, "several conclusions have been reached on the means of securing necessary funds and the involvement of the private sector concerning the telecommunication market."

In his speech he also stressed the progress made in the communication sector by the host country of the colloquium, Jordan.

"The presentation of the Jordan delegation," he said, "was a model for the modernisation of the telecommunication sector in the Arab World."

He also praised the presentations from other delegations and private companies and said that the forthcoming telecommunication conference in Beirut will be

crowned by success if the participants are able to keep their current level of expertise and involvement and thus meet the challenges of the 21st century, which he titled the information century.

He then thanked the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) for their interest and continuous support which helped ensure the conference's success.

"The results are very promising and you can be sure of full support from the BDT," concluded Mr. Laouyane, addressing the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh who attended the conference's closing remarks.

The minister, in his turn, thanked the organisers for their efforts and emphasised the linkage between telecommunications conferences held in the past and the future — the last one took place in Damascus — and assured that the Ministry and the TCC will do their best to improve the sector and secure its financing.

Hutu guerrillas attack army positions in Burundi

NAIROBI (R) — Hutu rebels said Wednesday they had attacked army positions in Bujumbura overnight in the fiercest engagement since a July 25 coup but the country's Tutsi-dominated army said the rebels had been repelled.

Innocent Nimpagaritse, spokesman for the exiled National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD), told Reuters the CNDD military wing used rocket-propelled grenades to attack the army in a stepped-up campaign against Burundi's Tutsi military junta.

Shaken Bujumbura residents said the battle was intense and frightening. It appeared to be the first fight close to Bujumbura, which is now inhabited by Tutsis. The Hutu who used to live in the capital have fled.

Mr. Nimpagaritse said the CNDD's military wing — Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) — had taken the battle to the capital after driving the army out of Burundi's Kanyanza region, a scene of heavy fighting in the last five days.

"Our forces moved from positions in hills surrounding Bujumbura and attacked the putschists (army) in the city. We are stepping up pressure on the regime. We have already driven them out of Kanyanza region," Mr. Nimpagaritse said.

"We shall not lay down

our arms until the Tutsi military returns power to the democratically elected government of Burundi. But we have no intention of seizing Bujumbura. We just want to drive them to the negotiating table," he added.

In Bujumbura, army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Minani told Reuters that the army had repelled the rebels after heavy fighting at Tshiangano Commune, a few kilometres outside the city.

"They (rebels) were firing from Tshiangano. We sent our military and we fought them back. How many we killed, we don't know," said Col. Minani, adding there were no military casualties.

Col. Minani said that fighting took place far beyond the city, but residents of the Muntanga North suburb which faces the hills where fighting took place said that bullets landed in the city itself.

"Bullets were landing in this area and we hid in our houses when we heard the fighting. Last year there was gunfire all the time but these days we hardly hear any so we were very scared," one Muntanga resident told Reuters.

There was a heavy military presence in Muntanga North suburb Wednesday morning, but Bujumbura city came to life as usual with residents flocking to work.

The fighting started at curfew, 10 p.m. (2000 GMT), and gunfire could also be heard in at least two other locations in the city's eastern suburbs.

Hutu rebels earlier launched three 60mm mortar bombs at the university, injuring no one and causing slight damage, according to military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Isia Nibizi.

Burundi's capital has been largely free from violence since military strongman Pierre Buyoya, an ethnic Tutsi, came to power in an army coup d'état in July that ousted a Hutu president.

The city, which is Tutsi-controlled after a bout of ethnic cleansing last year, is considered highly vulnerable to attack from Hutu rebels because of its position between the north east shore of Lake Tanganyika and a range of steep hills.

Around 150,000 people — mainly civilians — have died in inter-ethnic fighting in Burundi since 1993 when the country's first democratically-elected Hutu president was killed in an attempted coup.

Meanwhile, Burundi's largest political party, FRODEBU, has thrown its support behind Hutu rebels, a party spokesman said Wednesday.

Joseph Ntakirutimana told Reuters in Nairobi the party of ousted President Sylves-

tre Ntibantunganya was now appealing to Hutus to rally behind CNDD rebels.

When the army seized power on July 25, FRODEBU's Hutu leaders either fled the country or took refuge with Western embassies.

Mr. Ntibantunganya is still held up at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Bujumbura.

In Bujumbura, political analysts said the FRODEBU stand, if confirmed, could be the most significant step in the Hutu struggle against the besieged Tutsi military.

Regional countries clamped economic and transport sanctions on Burundi after Major Pierre Buyoya's coup. The sanctions are biting while the FDD steps up its military campaign.

"From now on we are together with the CNDD. We are going to reinforce them because we have the same enemy — the Tutsi army," Mr. Ntakirutimana said.

"We are fighting a minority system in Burundi similar to what the blacks were fighting in South Africa and it is important that we stand united, we wage the resistance," he added.

He said the FRODEBU position was supported by 25 former members of parliament now in exile in Kenya and Tanzania.

Burma doubles dissident's sentence

RANGOON (AFP) — The seven-year jail term of a close aide to Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD), Win Htein, has been doubled, NLD sources said Wednesday.

The move came as Burma's powerful intelligence chief, General Khin Nyunt, told the nation's judiciary to mete out severe punishment to those who infringe national security, the state media reported.

Authorities doubled Mr. Win Htein's term for "subversive acts." The NLD sources said, in a move that follows a spate of heavy sentences of key party members.

He was arrested in May when the State Law and

Order Restoration Council (SLORC) — as the ruling junta is known — detained 262 of Ms. Suu Kyi's supporters in a bid to derail an NLD congress.

He was sentenced to seven years in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison last month along with nineteen other NLD members, all found guilty of violating public security laws.

Authorities accused Win Htein of involvement in a conspiracy to smuggle a videotape out of Burma which purportedly illustrated the failure of a rice crop.

There has been no official confirmation of the doubling of his sentence.

Meanwhile, General Khin

Nyunt said that junta had been giving priority to assuring the rule of law since it came to power in 1988.

"Effective action must be taken against those disrupting law and order especially at this time when the government is forging peace and stability with a national outlook," Gen. Khin was quoted by state media as saying.

This was vital for the progress of the nation and the well-being of its people, he told senior law officers and judges Tuesday.

Judges should mete out heavy punishments not only for crimes affecting national security but also for those threatening public life and property, the national economy and the rule of law, he said.

Indian congress sets key clash with Deve Gowda

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's three-month-old government faced a potential crisis Wednesday after the Congress Party said it was having problems shoring up the minority alliance.

Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been under pressure from his Congress Party colleagues to distance it from Mr. Deve Gowda's United Front Alliance due to assembly polls in the state of Uttar Pradesh, where their interests clash.

Mr. Rao, who has said his support to the United Front government was not a life-long commitment, told a rally in India's most populous state late Tuesday: "We are extending this support with great difficulty."

He said Congress' support for the United Front was a defensive move against the rightist Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won the most seats in parliament in the April/May general elections and is a dominant force in Uttar Pradesh, from where it received 52 of its 160 deputies.

Mr. Rao's aides said his first public statement since Congress lost the national poll was his clearest warning yet of the potential for Congress to ditch Mr. Deve Gowda for political expediency.

Earlier this week, the state's top Congress leader issued a more direct threat. "We are going to fight the elections to win an outright victory. It doesn't matter what effect it has on the central government," Congress president for Uttar Pradesh, Jitendra Prasad, said in a television interview.

Uttar Pradesh has announced a three-phased poll in late September and October that pits the United Front against Congress and the BJP.

Mr. Deve Gowda formed a minority government in June after Mr. Rao promised to support him following the inconclusive general elections. The Indian leader depends heavily on Congress to survive the BJP's unceasing challenge in parliament.



Firemen sift through the debris of a building that collapsed in Bombay Tuesday killing at least 16 people (Reuters photo)

Firefighters search with bare hands as Bombay toll reaches 16

BOMBAY (AFP) — Firefighters were using their bare hands to search for more survivors here Wednesday after a building collapse killed 16 people.

Another nine people were in hospital after Tuesday's incident in the city's oldest business district.

Chief fire officer Dikulkarni said his men had not been able to get their vehicles to the scene because of narrow roads and were relying on bare hands, picks and shovels to shift the debris.

He added: "The building

was old and the timber had decayed.

Numerous renovations must have been done on the office complex. With so many people moving around, the building must have weakened over the years."

Krishna More, 22, who escaped with a sprained leg and bruising, said he had heard the sound of falling bricks during Tuesday afternoon but had not paid attention.

"Immediately the building started swaying. I saved

myself by jumping out of the first floor window. The whole thing was over in a moment. Nobody had time to scream for help."

There were two women among the dead, most of whom died from severe head injuries. Rescuers Tuesday saved 12 people from the rubble.

Bombay Sheriff Subinkumar Choudhury said the city had more than 18,000 old buildings in dangerous condition, housing more than 1.2 million people.

Love blooms for African liberators Mandela, Machel

MAPUTO (R) — It's not hard to understand why Nelson Mandela fell for Graca Machel.

The widow of Mozambique's late President Samora Machel, who led his country to liberation, exudes charm and warmth.

Coming up for her 51st birthday next month she retains much of the physical beauty of her youth.

She is fiercely intellectual and she is part of the African independence struggle, epitomised by the 78-year-old Mandela.

But Graca says she will not marry South Africa's hero-president, despite the warmth of her feelings for him.

In an interview this week in Maputo with a Reuters correspondent who has known her for more than 20 years, Graca said she speaks to Mr. Mandela by telephone twice a day.

But she added: "I belong to Mozambique. I will always be the wife of Samora Machel. I like being called Mrs. Machel. It's the only way I can keep my husband alive."

President Machel was killed in a plane crash over South Africa near the Mozambican border in October 1986.

At his funeral, her face was twisted by anguish, and she wore mourning for a full five years afterwards.

Graca described her relations with Mr. Mandela as affectionate.

Asked if that meant amorous she replied in a whisper: "Yes."

Was she in love with President Nelson? "This is very embarrassing," she said with a giggle that said, yes but I'm not telling.

Long an open secret in government circles, the affair was acknowledged this week by a presidential spokesman after a Sunday newspaper splashed the story of their romance.

President Mandela let it be known that he and Graca plan to spend two weeks a month together from now on.

In strait-laced South Africa, the affair has raised some eyebrows. Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu is reported to have told

President Mandela he risked setting a bad example to youth.

"I can understand that President Nelson, being head of state, would have to set a kind of example," Graca Machel acknowledged.

"But we have problems, both of us, and we have discussed this very thoroughly. We made a decision. We are not getting married," she said.

President Mandela's controversial ex-wife Winnie stood by him through 27 years in jail but the couple were divorced in March. The president admitted his loneliness over the past six years of life with a woman who, he said, never came to his bed unless he was asleep.

South Africans were overwhelmingly sympathetic, and public reaction to the revelation that President Mandela has a new love in his life has been generous.

"He's such a lovely man and he deserves a companion," one woman was quoted as telling the Johannesburg Star newspaper, which sampled reaction.

"What's age got to do with it? The man's in love, can't you see?" a schoolgirl told the paper.

Graca was born on Oct. 17, 1945, in Southern Mozambique.

She studied in Lisbon in the late 1960s, graduating in modern languages, then went to Tanzania to join Machel's FRELIMO guerrillas fighting Portuguese colonialism.

She never fired a shot in anger but her education took her to the top. She served as minister of education and culture for 14 years — the only woman in the cabinet.

In 1986, four years before the political earthquake that began with the release of South Africa's most potent political prisoner, Graca received a message of condolence from the Mandelas on the death of her husband.

"My husband was murdered in just one day, in just one fateful moment," she replied to Winnie Mandela. "Your husband is being murdered every day, every hour. My sister,

thank you for having the strength to console me."

Ex-prostitute falls in bid for U.S. Congress

CARSON CITY, Nevada (R) — Jessi Winchester, a former prostitute who once worked at the Moonlight Bunny Ranch, a legal brothel in Nevada, fell short of her dream of reaching the U.S. Congress Tuesday. Former State Senator Thomas "Spike" Wilson crushed Ms. Winchester in the Democratic primary for Nevada's second congressional district. Ms. Winchester retired after six years as prostitute, working at the Moonlight Bunny Ranch and the Mustang Ranch, both legal Nevada brothels. The 53-year-old grandmother drew national attention with her campaign for political office. Although Ms. Winchester distanced herself from her former profession, her candidacy drew criticism from the Nevada Brothel Association, which represents brothels that operate legally in 10 of Nevada's 17 counties. "Her behaviour flies in the face of a policy our industry tries to maintain of not rubbing our existence in people's faces," George Flint, a lobbyist for the association, said earlier this year. With almost 90 per cent of precincts reporting, Mr. Wilson had about 62 per cent of the vote to Ms. Winchester's 21 per cent, with Mike Martin, a security guard at a Reno casino, trailing on 17 per cent.

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian actress Aishwarya Rai, crowned Miss World in 1994, has donated her eyes to a Bombay hospital, a newspaper said Wednesday. "I would like to help someone see the beauty of the world through my eyes long after I have gone," the Pioneer quoted her as saying in Bombay, where she works in India's thriving film industry. The Eye Bank Association said they hoped to persuade more celebrities to donate their eyes.

Actor Liam Neeson recovering from surgery

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Liam Neeson, who plays Irish independence fighter Michael Collins in a new movie, is recovering from surgery for an intestinal obstruction, his agent said. Neeson, best known for playing the lead role in the Oscar-winning Schindler's List, became ill Sunday at the Venice Film Festival. Warner Bros. said the actor underwent surgery for a blockage of the intestine at a hospital in Padua after he collapsed at the festival premiere of the controversial film Michael Collins, in which he plays the lead role. The Northern Ireland-born actor's agent in Los Angeles, Susan Culley and Associates, said Tuesday that Neeson, 44, was recovering successfully from a "minor intestinal occlusion." Michael Collins, directed by Dubliner Neil Jordan, recounts the life of the Irish Republican Army's director of intelligence who fought for Ireland's independence from Britain from 1919 to 1921.

Woman gets life for dowry murder

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A New Delhi court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for burning to death her daughter-in-law after a row over her dowry, the Times of India said Tuesday. Additional District and Sessions Judge G.D. Dhanuka passed the sentence Monday against Devki, who poured kerosene over Darshan in September 1991 and set her on fire, the daily said. The judge also sentenced Devki's daughter to three years hard labour in jail for harassing Darshan. Most families in India pay huge dowries to marry off their daughters.

Belgian sex ring may have enjoyed official protection

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Suspicions that the paedophile ring allegedly masterminded by Marc Dutroux enjoyed highly-placed protection grew Wednesday when it emerged that police probing the network had quizzed three magistrates, a lawyer and police officers.

The claims, which have been publicly voiced by the parents of Mr. Dutroux's alleged victims, were further strengthened when the father of the convicted child rapist appealed to his son to name his protectors or risk being killed to guarantee his silence.

"The most important and most urgent thing is to make him understand he must say who is financing him, who is protecting him, because he is risking his life by keeping quiet," Victor Dutroux said.

"Quite simply, he is in danger of being killed so that he won't be able to denounce anyone," he told

RTBF Radio.

Belgian press reports said police had interrogated nine people Wednesday, including the three magistrates. They also gathered photographic evidence to support allegations of collusion with known criminals.

The nine people, who include police based in Mr. Dutroux's home town of Charleroi, are thought to have links with a Brussels estate agent, Michel Nihoul, who has already been arrested in connection with the affair.

The revelation came the day after the decomposing bodies of two teenagers were discovered buried under a shed at one of Mr. Dutroux's homes in Jumet, near Charleroi, plunging Belgium into a new round of national mourning.

The girls, An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrechts, 19, were allegedly abducted by Mr. Dutroux while on holiday on the Belgian coast last

August.

Mr. Dutroux has also been charged with the abduction of Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune, the two eight year olds found starved to death at Mr. Dutroux's home last month, and two other girls, who were found alive.

Following their excavation at the Jumet house, police are now expected to turn their attention to other properties owned by Mr. Dutroux, where more bodies may be buried. At least 10 children who have gone missing in Belgium since 1985 are still unaccounted for.

At Hasselt, the home town of An and Eefje, hundreds of citizens lined up outside the town hall to sign messages of condolences to their families.

Throughout the town, Belgian flags were draped from windows ringed with black as a mark of respect. No date has yet been fixed for

the funerals.

The Belgian press said the latest find had plunged Belgium into new depths of horror. "Hope has died," headlined the daily La Dernière Heure. "Alas, Dutroux was not lying," said La Libre Belgique.

Even before Wednesday's revelations, most Belgians believed that Mr. Dutroux could only have got away with his crimes for so long because he was protected. The only other possible explanation is extraordinary complacency or incompetence.

His paedophilia had been known to authorities since 1985. In 1989 he was convicted of raping a minor and sentenced to 13 and a half years in prison.

Having been given a conditional release in April 1992, his activities should have come under close scrutiny. But somehow his irregular movements across the country, the fact that he



Hearse carrying coffins leave the house in Jumet owned by Marc Dutroux, chief suspect in the child sex and kidnapping scandal in Belgium. Police searching in the Dutroux property discovered two decomposing bodies Tuesday which were then exhumed and taken for an autopsy (Reuters photo)

owned eight houses and had no visible means of paying for them and the regular building work at his proper-

ties, escaped notice. Mr. Dutroux's first contact with the police after his release from prison came

when he was arrested last month. The Belgian government has promised that no stone

will be left unturned to find out what went wrong. The public remains to be convinced.



A Chechen boy plays with a shoulder grenade launcher as Russian soldiers walk past in central Grozny Tuesday. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin publicly backed a peace deal signed by security chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel leaders (Reuters photo)

Lebed wants parliament inspection of Chechen accord

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian national security chief Alexander Lebed said a parliamentary vote on the Chechen peace accord would help resolve the deep Russian divide over the deal. Interfax quoted his spokesman as saying Wednesday.

Alexander Barkhatov said Gen. Lebed was confident that the examination of the peace agreement by the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, would enable Russians to "come up with a united front."

"Alexander Lebed's peace initiative does not go beyond the framework of Russian legislation, he has acted in accordance with the powers given to him by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin has approved the peace accord signed Saturday between Gen. Lebed and Chechen rebel Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov to end the 20-month conflict.

But Communists and hardline nationalists have attacked the plan as a sell-out to the Chechen rebels and denounced the delayed decision on Chechnya's status as a threat to Russia's political integrity.

The deal ended the war and froze the problematic issue of Chechnya's political status until the end of 2001.

On Tuesday several leaders in the North Caucasus region said they would like the Federation Council to examine the peace accord. Interfax reported.

"Let the Federation Council think, let the deputies of the Duma (the lower house of parliament) examine the issue," said Barkhatov.

The spokesman said the deal could not be rejected by the Federation Council.

"Alexander Ivanovich (Lebed) has the support of President Boris Yeltsin, of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who have given their approval of the peace accord," he said.

The Federation Council's approval could ease pressure on the Kremlin, which until now has borne full responsibility for Saturday's negotiated agreement to end the war.

On Wednesday Interfax quoted Russian military sources as saying that at least 520 Russian soldiers had been killed in fighting in Grozny during August, and around 1,264 wounded.

Another 80 soldiers were reported missing and probably dead, a military spokesman said.

On Aug. 6 Chechen separatists launched a dawn attack on Russian troops in the Chechen capital.

After three days of intense fighting, the rebels took over the embattled city, but sporadic clashes continued until Aug. 21, when Gen. Lebed initiated the process which ended the war.

Earlier this week Gen. Lebed said a total of 80,000 people had been killed in the Chechen war since Russian troops invaded the breakaway republic in December 1994. There was no breakdown figures available of the number of Chechen fighters or civilians killed.

Meanwhile, when people say darkly that the withdrawal

of Russian troops from Chechnya will plunge the breakaway region into civil war, Urus-Martan is one of the places mentioned as a potential powder keg.

But both separatists and supporters of the Russian-backed Chechen government in this town, 25 kilometres southwest of the Chechen capital Grozny, said they saw little chance of civil strife if a peace deal between Moscow and the rebels is carried out.

"The main thing is that we do not shoot each other," said Wakhid Mokhchayev, one of at least three local administration chiefs from Grozny who moved here after the separatists took over the capital on Aug. 6.

"We will not kill each other any more...we will not take up arms again," added Mokhchayev, referring to the truce agreed last month as part of a plan to withdraw Russian troops.

A separatist lieutenant said civil war was unlikely, if only because the rebels were stronger.

Urus-Martan has always been a centre of support for the pro-Russian Chechen government, set up by Moscow to oppose the independence-seeking separatists who have fought a bitter war against Russian troops for almost 21 months.

Mr. Mokhchayev refused to discuss rumours spread by the man he officially reports to, pro-Russian leader Doku Zavgayev, that his supporters were gathering arms to fight the rebels.

He insisted that there would be no "Afghan scenario" in Chechnya, referring to the bloody civil war which broke out in Afghanistan after Soviet troops withdrew in 1989.

The shape of any new administration in Chechnya is not clear, but another Zavgayev loyalist said he wanted a "third way," between pro-independence Chechens and pro-Moscow forces.

"This town has always been a centre of compromise," said Sultan Gadayev, who worked as the head of the cultural section in Mr. Mokhchayev's district administration.

"We need a neutral person," he added.

Chechen separatists were also convinced that civil war should be avoided in their shattered region, although they said their opponents would be crushed if they were not prepared to compromise.

Said-Magamet Amzayev, a separatist lieutenant, said the only reason any Chechens had sided with the Russians was because they were afraid of them and their huge firepower.

He said pro-Zavgayev forces were gathering, mentioning areas in northern Chechnya traditionally opposed to the separatists.

But he said the separatists had beaten Russia and they could also beat any Chechen who chose to take up arms. "If there is opposition it should be on paper, but if it takes up arms it becomes an enemy and an enemy must be crushed."

Mr. Amzayev said what he really wanted to do was to put down his gun, allow the people to vote on Chechnya's future and go back to his job as a fireman.

Hurricane turns north; space shuttle moved

MIAMI (R) — Hurricane Fran, its winds at 115 mph (185 kph), moved toward the southeastern United States Wednesday, surrounded by tropical storm winds advancing 466 kilometres, the National Hurricane Centre reported.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the northwestern Bahamas as Fran moved northwest across the Atlantic toward the United States at 12 mph (20 kph).

At 5 a.m. edt (0900 GMT), Fran was about 869 kilometres from Charleston, South Carolina and forecasters predicted she might make landfall Thursday. Hurricane-strength winds extended 136 kilometres.

A hurricane watch area extended from Sebastian Inlet near Vero Beach, Florida, to Little River Inlet at the border of North and South Carolina.

At Cape Canaveral, Florida, east of Orlando about halfway up the Florida coast, NASA managers ordered the space shuttle Atlantis moved back to its massive garage.

The shuttle was expected to reach the safety of its giant assembly building by about 9:30 a.m. edt (1330 GMT).

Atlantis, already six weeks late because of rocket problems, was due to blast off on Sept. 14 on a mission to pick up U.S. astronaut Shannon Lucid from the Russian Mir space station and drop off her replacement, John Blaha.

Forecasters said Fran began a gradual northerly turn, diminishing Fran's threat to the heavily populated southern portion of Florida.

"It will lessen the chances of landfall in the southern Florida region and increase the chances in the north Florida to the North Carolina region," said Bill Frederick, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre.

The club med in the Bahamian island San Salvador closed its beach as Fran generated high waves and brisk winds. With rough seas, heavy rain and active thunderstorms expected as Fran's edge brushed the islands, residents of Abaco, Cat Island and Eleuthera were advised to stay indoors.

In Dare County, which includes Cape Hatteras on North Carolina's outer banks, "no swimming" advisories were lifted at beaches for the first time since Edouard threatened the state late last week.

Mexican army, police search for rebels

CHILPANCINGO, Mexico (R) — More than 300 Mexican soldiers and about 200 federal police officers launched an attack on a presumed group of guerrillas in the mountains in the state of Guerrero Tuesday, officials said.

Television news reports showed army helicopters firing into heavily wooded areas in the search for the presumed guerrillas.

The Interior Ministry said in a report that a taxi driver saw 10 hooded, armed men crossing a highway, which sparked the widespread search by the army and police.

The hooded men were believed to belong to the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), whose attacks killed at least 15 people in several states last week.

The Interior Ministry said that by nightfall all it had found were two hoods and a pair of military boots.

Unconfirmed reports said that eight of the presumed rebels were wounded, but state officials would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

Thousands of troops and federal police have already been drafted into rural states such as Guerrero and Oaxaca, where the EPR

struck. A senior government source said Tuesday that the rebel group would be hard to defeat because of their high mobility.

Police also remained on alert in the capital, Mexico City.

In the state of Oaxaca, the state government presented three men who it says had ties to the rebel group.

State-run news agency Notimex quoted a Federal Interior Ministry statement that four presumed members of the EPR were being held in the state of Oaxaca.



An army vehicle makes its way towards the Cerro de Huiteco where there were clashes between the army and leftist EPR guerrilla near the capital of Guerrero state Chilpancingo Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Misuari arrives for peace ceremony but Christians still on war footing

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Muslim leader Nur Misuari went into a Christian stronghold in the Southern Philippines Wednesday to promote a peace accord in the face of Christian hostility.

Mr. Misuari, who arrived from the Muslim-dominated city of Cotabato, was met at Zamboanga Airport by almost 1,000 supporters, including guerrillas of his Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Zamboanga's mainly Christian residents ignored his arrival and there was no repeat of the angry protests after Mr. Misuari signed a peace agreement with the government in Manila Monday.

Mr. Misuari was taken to a Muslim district on the outskirts of the city where he was to stage a ceremonial signing of the peace agreement.

The ceremony was originally scheduled for a sports stadium in central Zamboanga but it was transferred because of fears for Mr. Misuari's safety.

In Manila, President Fidel Ramos's chief aide, Executive Secretary Ruben Torres said the Zamboanga ceremony was "only a celebration of the MNLF. A thanksgiving party."

In General Santos City, which Mr. Misuari visited Tuesday, Roman Catholic Church leaders were organising a massive protest against the peace agreement, to coincide with the city's 28th anniversary celebrations Thursday.

City priests are calling for a transport strike and a shutdown of private businesses as part of the protest which will include the burning of coffins with effigies of Mr. Ramos and Mr. Misuari on top.

"This is to dramatise the anger of General Santos residents," Father Paul Plaza said. Under the peace agreement, an MNLF

council will be created to oversee development projects in 14 provinces in the southern island of Mindanao and nearby islands, which the country's Muslim minority consider their ancestral home.

This is in preparation for a plebiscite in 1998, which will ask residents if they wish to be part of a Muslim autonomous region covering the same region.

However, Christians, who are the majority in Mindanao, oppose the plan, fearing it will lead to Muslim domination.

In Manila, Mr. Torres denied charges by opposition Senator Edgardo Angara, made in Zamboanga Tuesday, that the peace agreement would allow the Muslims to expropriate Christian lands.

"There's nothing like that. We should really read very closely the agreement signed," he said.

In an attempt to assure that the agreement would benefit the economically-backward Mindanao, Mr. Misuari told reporters earlier in Cotabato City, that investment from foreign countries, particularly Libya, would now come into the region which has lagged behind the rest of the country.

"I have the assurance from Libyan President brother (Muammar) Qadhafi, that Libyan investors will come into Mindanao," once the MNLF-led council is in place, he said.

Mr. Misuari also admitted that Muslim armed groups were often blamed for a spate of kidnappings for ransom in the south but attempted to allay concerns about them, saying, "I am warning you kidnappers, stop doing what is un-Islamic."

Many of these Muslim kidnappers are former MNLF who have either defected to other factions or turned to banditry and Christians often do not distinguish them from the MNLF.

Firefighters claim victory over several U.S. wildfires

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Firefighters claimed victory over several major wildfires burning in the Western United States Tuesday but were still battling blazes in eight states.

Cooler weather and rain in some places brought welcome relief to thousands of exhausted firefighters stretched to the limit by the

worst fire season in 30 years. The Boise, Idaho-based National Interagency Fire Centre, which coordinates firefighting efforts, said 19 major fires were still burning, down from 24 Monday and from a peak of 52 last week.

"We credit it to mother nature and an incredible firefighting force that we have out there," said Wendell

Peacock, a spokesman for the Fire Centre.

The fires still burning had consumed almost 330,000 acres (134,000 hectares) in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. More than 13,400 firefighters were battling the blazes.

Intense heat and drought in parts of the western United

States this summer have caused fires to spread quickly through parched grass, brush and forest.

More than 5.7 million acres (2.3 million hectares) have burned so far this year compared with a five-year average of just more than two million acres (810,000 hectares).

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Unjustified action

THE U.S.' second attack against Iraq yesterday was indefensible in light of the widespread negative reaction to it and the one on Tuesday and also in terms of the ambiguous objectives that they tried to achieve. What is a most disturbing feature about the continuing military actions against Iraqi targets is their unilateral nature. Washington is acting as the investigator, judge and executioner all at the same time. Normally, mighty countries such as the U.S. seek a U.N. Security Council green light in the form of a resolution before they act. And when they act, the action is carried out through the U.N. itself. In the case of the latest flare-up the U.S. did not even bother to convene the Security Council much less to adopt a resolution before it struck.

In a way it is clear why the Clinton administration did not see fit to consult with the council because there simply was no prima facie case against Iraq to begin with. The movement of Iraqi troops to the northern region of the country did not violate any U.N. resolution by any stretch of the imagination. There is a near international consensus on this point. Even if there was a resolution, which is not the case, the acceptable norm is to call for an urgent meeting of the council on any alleged Iraqi violation and then seek an authorisation for a collective move and not a unilateral police action.

But the biggest problem with the U.S. actions is that unfortunately they do not end there. President Bill Clinton unilaterally and without an international authorisation took it upon himself to expand the no-fly zone in Iraq from the 32nd Parallel to the 33rd, and in the process purported to deny Baghdad its natural right to protect an expanded area of its airspace. Under international standards, such decisions are not made by one country no matter how strong and mighty it may be. What is the sense in having an international organisation and a Security Council to deal with threats to international peace and security if a superpower takes international law into its own hands at every turn and occasion? Could we be heading back towards adopting the law of the jungle in the late twentieth century?

On the top of all these precipitous U.S. decisions we now have London jumping on the U.S. bandwagon by tabling, with American blessings no doubt, a draft resolution before the Security Council condemning Iraq's troop movement in the north. If there is ever a case of putting the cart before the horse it is when a country or two attempt to censure a country after it has already been punished by unilateral action, and not once but twice. Is not this another contempt of international law? The flouting of international legitimacy makes Iraq a victim and its leadership the underdog. Above all, the people of Iraq will bear the consequences and suffer the most. We hope this is not what the U.S. has in mind and store for a people who has suffered enough.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i Wednesday drew a contrast between the reaction to Washington's new aggression on Iraq by foreign and Arab nations saying that Jordan and Egypt were particularly opposed to the attack while countries like France and Russia expressed apprehension that the missile raids will trigger new violence in the Middle East. Ibrahim Al Abi said the Iraqi regime has complied fully with the U.N. resolutions and committed no sin requiring retribution; and yet the U.S. found sufficient excuse to launch the attack. Jordan as well as Egypt have both stressed their keenness on safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and expressed deep concern over the new developments while foreign powers displayed dismay and called for dialogue with Baghdad to defuse the tension, said the writer. This means that the U.S. had acquired no backing from the world community nor did it secure a U.N. mandate to launch its new aggression on Iraq, he said. Having lost most of its mass destruction weapons and suffered heavily in the Gulf wars, Iraq is clearly unable now to pose a threat to its neighbours let alone the U.S., added the writer. He said the latest American aggression is unjustified by any standard and has won the U.S. more enemies in the Arab World.

TAHER AL ADWAN, a writer for Al Dustour described America's fresh aggression on Iraq as manifesting political weakness and bankruptcy especially in guaranteeing "safe haven" for Iraqi Kurds as it has been claiming to have achieved. It is most shameful to see the U.S. backed in its aggression by Arab capitals which have no regard to pan-Arab security or national considerations and which support Washington's drive to disintegrate the Iraqi state, said the writer. Criticising the Arab governments for their failure to help Iraq and save its people from further aggression, the writer said some Arab states suffice themselves by issuing statements expressing their concern over Iraq's sovereignty, but their statements contradict with their actual practice. The writer said that the Iraqis must realise that the Arab who have left Arab Jerusalem and its shrines as well as the Palestinian people fending for themselves without any external help, will not come to Iraq's which means that the Iraqi people are left alone to face their ordeal.

The View from Academia

The government and the governed:
The need to build confidence

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

ONE OF THE challenges facing the present government — not only because of the recent riots in the south, following the decision to rechannel bread subsidies, but also because it has promised from the very beginning to be different from previous governments in the way it functions and conducts business and to bring into existence some of the aspirations which people have long awaited — is building people's confidence in itself and in government in general. In my opinion, this fundamental goal should be made an urgent priority.

Somewhere along the line, the relationship between the government (any government, that is) and the people in this country has gone through (it still is going through) a phase of lukewarmness (chilling coldness, at times), scepticism, disillusionment and even mistrust and misbelief.

There is a complexity of causes standing behind this unfortunate rift in the relationship. Among them are the following three:

A) As has recently been publicly acknowledged, there were many bad practices, violations, and abuses (what we loosely and vaguely lump under the term "corruption") on the part of some government members. News about abuses and scandals travels fast in our part of the world and it gets greatly inflated and blown out of proportion as it is transmitted from one person to another. Several stories of such nature about ex-government officials are still alive and vigorous in the minds of people. As our press and media are not "investigative," analytical, and reliable enough (we have those which do not tell, those which half-tell or those which do tell exaggeratedly and distortingly — the "white," the "beige" or the yellow), we are unlikely to know fact from fiction.

Add to this the fact that people in our society blame the majority or the many for the vices of the minority or the few. On this basis, one corrupt government member can easily create hostility towards the government as a whole.

When we talk about members of government we should not be talking about the senior officials only; the junior members (the employees) should be included in our discourse.

I would argue that the misconduct of a civil servant, a clerk, a receptionist, a head of a section, etc. is ultimately as damaging as (may be even more damaging than) that of a senior government official. When the clerk at one of our ministries ignores you as a citizen, procrastinates, misplaces

your document, goes to perform prayers or have lunch for half an hour at the expense of your valuable (supposedly) time, you do not blame or hate him (you do, of course) but you blame and hate the head of his department, the ministry and the government as a whole.

When I was an undergraduate student a couple of decades ago, I (like many of my classmates) hated the university because of the hard time we experienced at the hands of the registration clerks. To sign up for six courses was a hellish, nightmarish experience. I loved the university interminably: Only when I took a course with a professor I liked and respected. Love and hate (and ultimately allegiance) are effected by those one interacts with. What is the university to me, as a student? The registrar, the secretary, the clerk at Students Affairs, the head of my department, and my professors — not the dean and not the president. The case with government is similar.

B) Our citizens have high, and at times false, expectations of government. For reasons due to governmental rhetoric itself, to past government practices, and to misconceptions about what government should and should not do, people in our society have become too reliant on government for almost everything. As the government cannot fulfill except a tiny portion of such expectations, people are disappointed and disillusioned.

C) The government (the present government as well as the previous ones) has not yet succeeded in opening channels (durable, lasting, effective and direct channels, that is, and not momentary, sporadic and indirect) with the people. It is to the credit of the present government that it is exerting a great deal of effort to maintaining working relations with the parliamentarians (the representatives of the people). Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's meeting with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament last Sunday in which he emphasised that the government is "totally committed to... cooperation" with the legislative body is an example of the government's intention to make the relation work.

One thing should be said here, though with a grain of salt: The Lower House of Parliament, though elected by the people and for the people, cannot be, as yet, a replacement of the people or a true representative of them. The democratic experience in the country is still in the cradle (though it is certainly alive and kicking). In fact, many citizens are sceptical of the ability of their representatives to live up to the

expectations, and I would argue that the man in the street has more faith in the government than in the Parliament. When the government is talking to Parliament, in theory it is doing the right thing; in practice, however, the Parliament and the people are two different things.

What needs to be done?

1. The present government should continue to portray itself as intolerant of and hostile to corruption (i.e. that its members will not engage in it in any way), but it should also fight corruption at the lower level: The level of the civil servant, the clerk, the department head, the employee. This is a must, for at present people's only serious encounter and interaction with the government is at this particular level. Let's stop appointing heads, directors, and managers who spend their time complaining (and boring you to death) against the corruption and inefficiency of those under them rather than attempting seriously to reform these employees and make them behave. Who is supposed to direct, administer, manage, and reform these employees? My grandmother?

2. People's expectations of government must be cut down to their true, realistic size. People need to be better educated about what to expect from the government and what to expect from themselves. The present government needs to work out a strategy, both short-term and long-term, whose aim is to orient and enlighten the largely misoriented and unenlightened populace as to the precise role of government and to its precise limits. Some serious work needs to be done at this level.

3. The government needs to open direct channels with the people to explain a lot of things: The benefits of peace (what precisely are they — big chunks of gold to be handed to people in abundance or opportunities that have to be materialised through lot of work?), the difficulty and slowness of reform, the plans the government is implementing, the plans it will implement, etc. Facts and figures. Extensive meetings with people in the various towns and cities need to be launched, if only for a psychological and moral effect. The government did some of this at the beginning, but there is not enough of it now. His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince have done an excellent job in this respect. The government can do the same.

There is a genuine need for the government to build people's confidence of it. This is crucial at this point in time, and it can be done.

France, seeking Middle East role, differs on Iraq

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac has won domestic plaudits and boosted France's standing in the Arab World by distancing Paris from U.S. missile strikes on Iraq, but he is being careful to avoid a serious clash with Washington.

While Britain, Germany and NATO rushed to applaud President Bill Clinton's cruise missile raids to punish Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for sending his troops into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, France voiced concern and legal misgivings.

The sullen dissent from Paris stopped short of outright condemnation of the U.S. attack, but it was nevertheless the most serious crack to date in the Western coalition that drove Iraqi invasion forces out of Kuwait in 1991.

France reiterated its concern at the situation on Wednesday and called for rapid implementation of a U.N.-brokered plan to allow Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil in exchange for food, which Washington has said must be delayed.

The Franco-American divergences set the scene for a possibly stormy Paris visit on Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"France is following two contradictory imperatives: not to create a crisis with the United States while also asserting its difference. That is the clear line of France's new Arab policy," said Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI).

Following closely on differences over Lebanon and Iran, the French dissent on Iraq highlights Mr. Chirac's bid to stake out an independent Middle East policy that positions Paris as an alternative broker to Washington, analysts say.

In October the French president is planning his third Middle East visit in six months, hoping to help revive negotiations between Israel and Syria, suspended since before hard-line Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was elected in May.

"France can play a role in the region since the United States' even handedness is somewhat in doubt. It is important for Paris to suggest an alternative," Mr. Moisi said.

Most Arab states condemned

Strike on Iraq diverts U.S. pressure from Iran

By Barry May
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran is staying on the sidelines of the Iraqi crisis, happy to see the attention of its declared enemy the United States diverted to neighbouring Iraq.

Only last month, Middle East analysts openly discussed the possibility of a U.S. military strike on Iran in retaliation for what Washington called state sponsorship of terrorism.

But now the scale of the Clinton administration's "dual containment" policy against Iran and Iraq — enforced by U.S. warships and aircraft in the Gulf — has again shifted heavily towards Baghdad.

"Washington's confrontation with Baghdad gets Tehran off the hook for now," a Middle East analyst said. "For the last few months the Iranians have been under full American pressure. Now that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is once again the chief villain, they can take a breather."

The United States has been waging an international campaign to isolate the Islamic republic for its alleged involvement in terrorist acts against the West. Iran denies all such charges, and says Washington is bent on toppling its Islamic government.

Iran kept up its rhetoric against the United States by blasting Tuesday's U.S. missile attacks on targets in southern Iraq as electioneering by President Bill Clinton.

"Since Clinton is in the run-up to an election, he has found an attack on Baghdad to be the most convenient way of projecting a powerful image of himself and decreasing the pressure from the rival (Republican) Party," state-run Tehran radio said.

The commentary was consistent with Iran's condemnation of meddling by powers outside

the U.S. strikes on southern Iraq and even Saudi Arabia. Washington's chief strategic ally in the Arab World, with held support. Arab diplomats voiced satisfaction with France's position.

However the analysts said Washington would remain the central power in the region because of its military reach and its unique influence on Israel.

And political commentators said Mr. Chirac would not go too far in distancing himself from Mr. Clinton, hot favourite to win reelection in November.

"Anti-Americanism is an indispensable prop in the Gaullist accessory box, but it must be handled delicately," the left-of-centre daily Liberation wrote in an editorial.

the region in Gulf conflicts.

Iran was at war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988 and remained neutral in the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Tehran denounced Baghdad's invasion as well as the U.S.-led Gulf war.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, asked in Washington what message Iran was supposed to get from Tuesday's raid, said "we have separately warned Iran not to meddle in this conflict in northern Iraq".

Tension between the United States and Iran mounted after comments by Mr. Perry in August that Tehran might be behind a fuel truck bomb in Saudi Arabia in June which killed 19 U.S. airmen, and that Washington might retaliate.

Mr. Perry quickly clarified that his comments did not signal imminent military action against Iran. Tehran complained to the United Nations about what it saw as a U.S. threat.

Middle East analysts said they expected neither a move by the Islamic republic to take advantage of the U.S. attack against Iraq nor an American move against Iran, which Washington has accused of interfering in northern Iraq.

But some Western analysts said Iran could soon return to the top of Washington's agenda. "The focus is all on Saddam. That's good enough for now. They'll worry about Iran in due course," said Rosemary Holles, head of the Middle East programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London.

"Possibly the American analysts told Washington when Iran made its incursions that it was not as dire as we're now hearing it was. In other words, they've made some infiltrations but this doesn't amount to a major operation."

Iranian troops in July attacked positions of an Iranian Kurdish opposition group in northern Iraq after Tehran accused the rebels of cross-border attacks.

Aside from strategic rivalry in a region that has been virtually an exclusive American preserve since the end of the cold war, French officials say Paris has genuine policy differences with Washington over the right approach to Iraq.

"Keeping Iraq in poverty and attacking it from time to time has not succeeded in toppling Saddam nor in stabilising the region, but only reinforced him in power while his population starves," one policymaker said.

"The Americans may think they're punishing Saddam, but they're actually helping him," another official said.

France's legal objections have focused on Iraq's territorial integrity and thus its right to use its own forces on its own soil, especially since one of the

LETTERS

'Refinery talks still on'

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to your Sunday issue of Jordan Times, Volume 21 No. 6314 Sept. 1st, 1996. The article on Aqaba Refinery by your reporter Mr. P.V. Vivekanand quoted His Excellency Dr. Hashem Dabbas as stating that "No negotiations are going on regarding the Aqaba Refinery Project" and the reporter has come to a conclusion that the comments meant that "the government had abandoned talks with an American Consortium... etc."

As Jordan is a leader in free press and freedom of opinion, we would very much appreciate if your esteemed newspaper would publish this letter in full with the following remarks:

- 1- Our Group — Zachry/Parsons/Hutchinson is known worldwide as one of the internationally qualified pioneers and leaders in refinery construction and petrochemical engineering. In fact ENR has placed Parsons as No. 1 Engineering Co. worldwide for the 5th consecutive year.

- 2- As far as our consortium is concerned we have submitted our final amended proposal to the Ministry of Energy around mid-August and are still waiting their response.

- 3- The "similarity" between our group and CHA is not objective in this regard. CHA is a known U.S. company and were very serious in pursuing this project. However, our group experience goes back to more than half a century and more than 22 large refineries.

We are anticipating to have the opportunity to prove not only our skill and unique experience, but our prompt intention to serve the Jordanian economy and enter with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the world of oil in the 21st century.

For the Zachry, Parsons, Hutchinson Consortium
The Hutchinson Group

Putting record straight

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to the article that appeared in the Jordan Times issue of Wednesday, Sept. 4, 1996, by Ms. Maria Bizri entitled "Pharmaceutical industrialists protest against 'premature' implementation of GATT laws."

Putting the issue of content aside, which does not necessarily reflect the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) views, please note that the Pharmaceutical Research Unit (PRU) is not one of the RSS research units as mentioned in the article. PRU is affiliated with the Arab Pharmaceutical Union and is only hosted by the Royal Scientific Society at its premises.

Dr. Hani Mulki,
President,
Royal Scientific Society,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Very portable, little upgradable

By Jean-Claude Elias

OF ALL the different models of personal computers one may dream of, portables (a.k.a. notebooks) are the most elegant in design. Holding the tremendous power and amazing possibilities of, say, a Pentium machine in a small, beautiful box weighing approximately three kilograms, the size of an A4 sheet of paper but thicker (about one inch), certainly adds to the appeal of the equipment.

The industry has recently eliminated many of the weaknesses one could criticise in early models of notebook computers. Power autonomy has been increased from a mere two hours up to six or even eight in some cases, thanks to newly developed rechargeable batteries. The display used to be the most painful element in notebooks: Monochrome, no contrast and washed out colours. The new active colour displays compare favourably to those found on full-size desktop PCs.

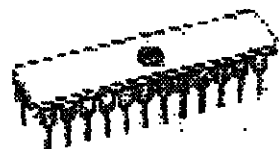
All things considered, in terms of technical characteristics notebooks are now on a par with desktop machines. They present however a major limitation.

Any user of personal computer one day or another reaches a point where his or her machine needs to be upgraded. Whether the upgrade consists of more memory, more disk capacity or more processing power, or any combination of those, such a day will inevitably come. With the release of new software the need for upgrade is bound to happen sooner or later. Alas, upgrading a desktop PC is one thing but upgrading a notebook is another.

When you want to add memory, disk or processing power to a computer, there are mainly two aspects of the operation to consider — its cost and the technical possibility of doing it. When it comes to notebooks, both aspects are hard to cope with.

Because of their reduced size and the high degree of integration of their components, portable computers are by definition difficult to open and maintain. Notebook hard disks for instance are often custom made to withstand high levels of shocks and vibrations. There is also hardly any empty space left inside the cabinet of a notebook to add

chip talk



electronic cards like you would do in a desktop PC.

The result of this state of affairs is that upgrading a notebook is extremely expensive and sometimes impossible. In the worst case and for the same component, it can be 10 times more costly than for a desktop. In the best case, it would be two times more expensive. Technically speaking the upper limit for an upgrade is also lower than on a full-size model. For example you could easily replace a 120 MB hard disk with say an 800 MB in your desktop computer but only with a 400 MB on a notebook.

Whereas components are easily interchangeable between desktop machines, meaning that you can buy almost any brand of memory, disk or processor, if you have a notebook you must always go back to the manufacturer from whom you purchased it for any upgrade — hence the high price you would pay.

Notebooks therefore have a shorter life than large PC models. With an intelligent upgrade policy one could keep a desktop computer in "competitive" shape for five to seven years, but a notebook will become obsolete in two. For some users however their advantages may largely counterbalance this limitation.

As long as one realises that the upgrade of a notebook is not as easy nor as affordable as that of a desktop unit, one can live perfectly happy with it. For all those who really need them, being able to use these small computers anywhere, anytime may be a priceless advantage.

The new order of business

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

DAYDREAMING doesn't work. Attempting to solve everything on one's own leads to nothing either. Because of this, it is demanded that the reality of daily life becomes the new order of business. It has to be this way because the way a person lives tells a lot about who he or she is. This is justifiable purely because as we stumble through life searching for a world that makes sense, the mind enables us to tell the difference between right and wrong, between class and trash, between order and chaos.

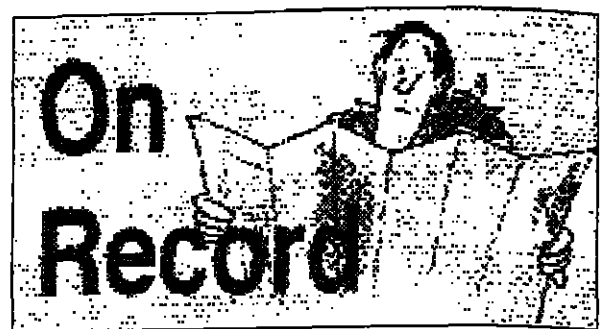
Writing is one way of facing up to this reality. But it can only be a starting point. A starting point about having the desire to be moved by love for and interest in the larger picture that is everyday life; in making connections across lines and barriers, and in caring for ideas and all things despite the restrictions of a profession.

Ideas are always going to be at the heart of everything. They are, after all, about excitement and discovery. But to engage in a debate is also about being a thinking and concerned member of society, and being, at times, embarrassing, contrary and even unpleasant. Or being whatever it takes to get the message across.

These ideas are then about possessing an imagination that can never be stifled by reason. About warmth and hope.

There also has to be a new order of business because the old ways of doing things — hints and insinuations — have only sparked confusion. This is a new order of business demanded by a maturity which in turn is a product of awareness and the harsh realities of that which we go through everyday. Realities growing harsher and harsher.

Accordingly, the weight of the responsibility that each one of us bears has to be increased. Yet a new keyword is "choice." We have to teach others about choice and about being brave enough to make the right choices. About



coaching people to make the right choices. This is where knowledge becomes very important: We have to be aware of anything and everything going on anywhere in the world.

Having a "wisdom of the heart" is also an important element of this new philosophy. A wisdom that can help us make our way through life, to be selective and to expose the ordinary in everyday situations. To recognise a good thing when we find it and to be able to cherish and hang on to it. Life does have a funny way of telling us that good things are very hard to come by. Sometimes when it is already too late.

Because of this, we have to understand that nobody outside of ourselves holds the key to our future. It might be inevitable that there will always be people who will preach on and on about life and the world, and there will always be experts who will forever believe they hold solutions to all our problems. Add to this that besides teaching us what to read, our schools also teach that learning from teachers is better.

All this can change only if and when we want it to. Education should be about telling people how to select or reject information, then leave it up to them to decide. To choose.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, September 5, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran	5:00	News Flash
3:05	Double Dragon	5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
3:35	N.B.A. Basketball	5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
4:45	Take Your Pick (Game Show)	5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
5:00	News Flash	6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
5:02	French Programme — Cirque	7:00	Le Journal
5:30	Show — Surprise Sur Prise	7:15	Magazine — Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:00	Le Journal	7:30	News Headlines
7:15	Magazine — Ushuaia	7:35	The Hypnotic World Of Paul McKenna
7:30	News Headlines	8:00	The Big Wet
7:35	Here's Lucy	9:10	The Lazarus Man
8:00	Turata	10:00	News In English
9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation	10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
10:00	News In English	11:10	Bodies Of Evidence
10:25	Feature Film — Another Woman Child		
12:00	Family Matters		

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Friday, September 6, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Teletext
3:05	Dumb & Dumber	3:00	Holy Koran
3:20	Bush School	3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:45	Name Your Adventure	3:20	Captain Planet
4:15	Crystal Maze	3:45	Hot Shots
5:00	News Flash	4:15	Bob Morrison Show
5:02	French Programme — Les Polluards	4:30	Alf
5:30	Telefilm — Tumultes	5:00	News Flash
6:00	Until 12:00 p.m. U.S. Tennis Open (Live)	5:02	French Programmes — Sciences Cartoon

Saturday, September 7, 1996

2:00	Teletext	7:00	Le Journal
3:00	Holy Koran	7:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
3:05	Moomin	7:30	News Headlines
3:25	Pumpkin Patch	7:35	Blossom
3:45	Blue Heelers	8:00	Documentary — Man Alive
4:30	Big Brother Jake	8:30	Encounter
5:00	News Flash	8:45	Varieties
5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon	9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi	10:00	News In English
5:30	Game Show — Les Bons Genies	10:20	Mission Impossible
6:00	Until 12:00 p.m. Tennis: U.S. Open 1996 (Live)	11:15	China Beach
		12:00	My Two Wives

Sunday, September 8, 1996

2:00	Teletext	2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran	3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	The Mask	3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:30	Bush School	3:20	Flinstones
3:45	Mac & Mutley	3:45	The Adventures
4:20	Italian Soccer	4:10	Kelly
5:00	News Flash	4:30	Earth Revealed
5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon	5:00	News Flash
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi	5:02	Document — La France Aux 1000 Villages
5:30	Game Show — Qui Est Qui	5:30	Varieties — L'Invite De Marque
6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One	6:00	Document — Les Enfants Du Voyage
7:00	Le Journal	7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique	7:15	Magazine — Sport Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines	7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Right To Learn — Documentary	7:35	Evening Shade
	A UNICEF Programme On Sudanese Refugee Children	8:00	Super Stars Of Action
8:00	American Chart Show	8:30	Chancer
9:00	Until 3:00 a.m. Tennis: U.S. Open (Live)	9:10	Hunter

Monday, September 9, 1996

2:00	Teletext	11:10	Bugs
3:00	Holy Koran		
3:05	Adventure On The Rainbow Pond		
3:30	Oscar's Orchestra		
3:45	Playabout		
4:15	World Echo		
4:30	Hey Dad		

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

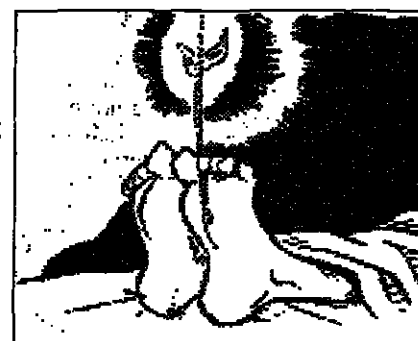
By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

* A HYENA-LIKE spider can catch insects by spreading a net of silk on them and then eating them up.

* AN AMERICAN managed to make bricks for building houses by remanufacturing paper waste.

* IN THE Kalahari desert in Botswana, Africa, there are mines where mushrooms grow in abundance.



* BEFORE going to sleep the ancient Chinese used to fasten in their toes a thread that continued to burn until the fire had stung their feet and made them wake up in time.

* A SEVENTY-THREE years old American covered a distance of 384 km on his grass-tractor just to visit his brother whom he hadn't seen for ages.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** She is an old hand at dancing.
Innaha mutamarrisa fir-raqs.

** A handful of men could defeat hundreds.
Tamakkanat fe'aton minar-rijal an tab'zima al-me'aat.

** It is hard to say which is better.
Minas-sab al-qawl ayyohoma afdal.

** Don't hedge! "Yes" or "No".
La torawegh! Qull 'na'aw 'la.'

** Fog impeded our progress.
Ad-dabab a'aqa taqaddomana.

** What kin is he to you?
Ma qarabatohu minka?

** He knocked off a poem in 10 minutes and sent it to a local newspaper.
Nathama qasidatan fee ashri daga'iq wa'arsalaha ela saheefatin mahalliya.

** The police tracked the thieves to their lair.
Ta'aqqabat ash'shurta al-lussoos hatta wakrehim.

JOKES

* "I've made up my mind to marry a beautiful girl and a clever cook."
"This means you intend to marry TWO!"

* JIMMY: "How can I express my deep love towards you, my dearest?"
EMILY: "That's very simple. Just open your wallet and let me have its contents!"

* ROMEO: "Give me a kiss, please!"

JULIET: "(Silent)"
ROMEO: "Would you allow me to kiss you, my darling?"
JULIET: "(Still keeping silent)"
ROMEO: "Don't you hear me? Are you deaf?"
JULIET: "No, but are you so paralysed that you can never move at the right moment?"

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

'STAMPS'

If your dream featured rare stamps of any kind, it predicts a good financial year ahead: stamping letters is an omen for improving status; to buy stamps indicates an increase in material wealth; collecting foreign stamps is a prophecy of advancement through influential friends.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Where is the "Land of Cake"?
2. Where is the largest stone in the world?
3. Which is the lightest of all known woods?
4. Who wrote under the pen name of A.E.?
5. By what name is the study of mountains called?
6. A Portuguese man-o-war is a fish or a ship?
7. How many links are there in a chain?

PUZZLES

EVEN-STARS

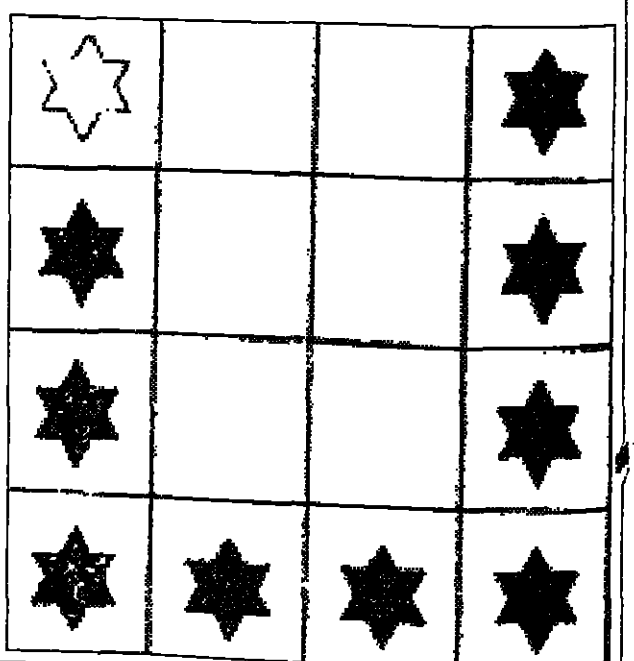
The ten stars in the diagram are so arranged to show twelve rows — either vertical, horizontal, or diagonal — containing an even number of stars. These are as follows:

HORIZONTAL. Three rows containing two stars. One row containing four stars.

VERTICAL. Two rows containing four stars.

DIAGONAL. Six rows containing two stars.

The greatest possible number of rows in which an even number of stars can appear is sixteen and this can be attained by moving four stars only. The white star in the top left-hand corner must remain in its present position. Now see if you can find which are the four stars to move and to which squares to move them.



business

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

Darat Al Funun's Summer Exposition '96

Soumi's workshop: 'The Basta — Compositions from Nature'

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

A MASTER painter goes beyond technical accomplishment to explore and transform the visual world so that the most humble subject becomes something remarkable," comments artist Marilyn Hughey Phillips, in her essay, entitled: Make The Ordinary Extraordinary.

The concept of the "master painter" here, however, is embodied in the workshop's conceiver, renowned Palestinian artist, Nasser Soumi, and several prominent participating Jordanian artists. The "humble" objects undergoing transformation are: Acorns, almonds, goat-horns, wheat sheaths, maize stalks, pomegranates, smashed glass, smashed clay earthenware, cloth, tree-slices, coals, pine-cones, recycled paper, and fragrant lavender. The setting is the canopied open-air sculpture and metalwork studio at Darat Al Funun. The artistic context is an installation workshop that involved a small group of young but established local artists, whose works, completed in June 96, are now the subject of the installation exhibit.

Predictably, the exhibit title that most immediately comes to mind, within the broader theme of the Basta, is Compositions From Nature. It was under such a title that a commentary on the proceedings of the spring workshop was featured in *Rendezvous With Art*, June 20. The participating artists were: Ali Maher (the Gallery's director), Adnan Al Sharif (assistant director), Her Royal Highness Princess Rajwa Ali, Nawal Abdallah, Dodi Tabba', Shireen Audeh, Araz Taleb, and the workshop's conceiver, Nasser Soumi. This week's *Rendezvous With Art* is essentially a re-release of the earlier one, though with a consideration of the completed work as well as of the genesis.

The Basta (pronounced "Bus-ta") is the Arabic term for the traditional set-up of downtown market boxes and sacks stacked together, containing all manner of condiments, dried foods, etc. While seemingly static and stagnant, the Basta is actually characterised by dynamism and constant change; boxes and sacks are "constantly being emptied and replenished, as well as undergoing rearrangement in relation to the proliferation of kindred boxes around them," explained Her Royal Highness Princess Rajwa Ali earlier, at the time of the workshop.

"In all probability, you have already drunk the water that was once contained in a dinosaur's stomach. Water has flowed and continues to flow everywhere, through everything. The same can be said of human thought, ever since man began his endeavours to preserve a trace of his passing," says Mr. Soumi.

The installations that emerged from the workshop are very much reflective of this philosophy of continuity

through transformation. Revolving around the concept of "Transformation," the workshop served as the embarkation terminal sending the participants off on a journey of soul-searching and discovery. The atmosphere was one of "back-to-basics." No constraints loomed: the individual's imagination was the limit.

The only parameters in the creation process were the physical ones. Each miniature installation was confined to a 40cm x 40cm x 8cm tray-like wooden box, into the depth of which, a thick texturous layer of a pre-prepared mix was laid, providing the background as well as the binding property required to hold everything together. Collaborating closely to make up the mix were several primitive ingredients: Sawdust, white glue and sheed (Arabic for a rudimentary porous white paint). The concoction, save for the inclusion of sheed, is very similar to the adhesive mix carpenters use, called "Ghira," to affix wooden joints together, where the use of nails is not desired).

"One of the aims of the workshop is to identify and develop an appreciation for humble, everyday local materials that one normally doesn't give a second glance to," said Mr. Soumi at the time of the workshop, adding that: "Once completed, the individual boxes or trays will be stacked up in the Gallery's open-air sculpture studio.

Spontaneity alone will decide the manner and configuration of the final collective form. In this way, there will be one big installation consisting of many individual miniature works, each one [comprising] an installation in its own right. These can then be restacked indoors or outdoors in any other original configuration; even hung up from ceilings to be viewed from underneath. The possibilities are endless."

Accordingly, each artist collected local materials, either plucked straight from nature, from the downtown itself, or put together using several natural and non-natural elements. These were then installed creatively in the boxes to form the installations.

In the end, not all of the aforementioned artists exhibited their work, but of those who did, some endeavoured to explain their work in relation to the workshop's theme: The Basta, and what the process meant to them.

"This is really about placing historical elements in a contemporary environment, says Mr. Maher. "In so doing, one engages in an important mental exercise while identifying interesting local materials and items and integrating them in a manner and context relevant to one's perception and reality."

In his installation, Mr. Maher chose to work with cloth, identifying it as integral to many Bastas. "Cloth is used extensively in Bastas, in the form of sacks, to put things in. I have thus featured cloth in my work to show the various effects it can generate by means of its foldings, unfoldings, and textures. The latter need not be singularly that of the cloth itself, but of some material over which it is stretched. The variety of textures and forms that can result is virtually limitless. For example, I have used intermittent strips of crimson and royal blue cloth to go over a solid object; the head of Venus. The cloth hugs the curves, ridges and furrows of the face, while allowing parts of the face's surface to appear uncovered. The effect is one of contrasting forms, textures and colours.

The three other boxes that complete my installation also incorporate cloth, in diagonal stretched form, as well as in diagonal wrinkled form. One of the boxes has a white sheet of cloth tightly stretched across it, with cloth bundles protruding from it, arranged also diagonally in crimson and blue. The protrusions are actually 'balls' of cloth wrapped around sponge bits, consequently taking the shape and texture of these squishy morsels."

Nasser Soumi's own installation is comprised of four



Installation depicting Canaanite pagan deity, Ba'al, by Nasser Soumi

Installations of plant material by Dodi Tabba'

boxes arranged in a square, flat on the ground, using the ghira putty mix as the basic material in two of the works. One of them depicts the waves of the sea, inspired by images of the coastal waters of his native hometown, Jaffa. Indigo colour, extracted and processed from the "Neeleh" plant, imbues the texturous mix with allusions of the sea. Another box, containing more indigo ghira mix that has been whipped into a spiral configuration, evokes, at first, the eye of a storm in full rage. However, the artist clarifies that it is actually a depiction of the ancient Canaanite pagan deity, "Ba'al." The Canaanites were a Semitic people inhabiting ancient Palestine and Phoenicia starting around 3000 B.C.

Dodi Tabba's installation consists of five boxes, into which she has placed objects from nature's bountiful gardens. One tray contains slices of branches and twigs from around her home in Mahes. She has decorated them with spots of Chinese ink. The effect is somewhat evocative of Africa's jungle-life, in as much as the black spotting on the wood's light surface elicits images of cheetahs' splendid coats. In the artist's own opinion, by contrast, the spots look somewhat like "melon-pips."

Another tray, similarly bedecked, features wood slices, intricately painted with groupings of numerous parallel lines. Each batch meets the other either diagonally or perpendicularly.

"I was inspired by the similar lines and natural markings that one can see in dried sunflower seeds on the ground," explains the artist.

"In another box, I have placed wheat sheaths and other bundles of natural dried plants that I have found in my garden and from around my home," says Ms. Tabba'. "In one of the two remaining boxes, I have placed pine cones with bundles of coal. Straw twine (rafia) was used to tie up the bits of coal together. The last box contains recycled brown paper commonly used as packaging material. I have combined the texture of the paper (embossed recesses and protrusions) with black markings in Chinese ink. These markings are evoked by the natural forms of dried plant stems,

leaves and twigs, as well as the markings one can discern in burnt wood following a barbecue," expounds Ms. Tabba'.

The creativity and originality of the works of the remaining participating artists, Adnan Al Sharif, Shireen Audeh, and Araz Taleb, can be seen alongside those explored here. A trip to the open-air sculpture studio at Darat Al Funun will put to rest any remaining pangs of curiosity hopefully generated in this commentary. The Summer Exposition will run until Oct. 8, daily from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., except Fridays.



Installations of painted forms on recycled packaging paper by Dodi Tabba'

KNOWLEDGE

ZLES

STARS

Martin Landau plays Geppetto in Pinocchio remake

By Michael Warren
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martin Landau has played a parade of dark characters — spies and villains, even Bela Lugosi in the role that earned him an Academy Award last year. But he may be remembered most as the befuddled creator of Pinocchio.

Landau is Geppetto the marionette maker in the latest version of the classic children's tale, which is so charming that it is sure to be a video store perennial.

And while Pinocchio steals the show, thanks to the animatronic experts at Jim Henson's creature shop and the voice of Jonathon Taylor Thomas of Home Improvement fame, Landau brings a fatherly love to the role.

"There's a sweetness to it," Landau says. "I love it. I think it's a delightful film."

Other actors might have brought their stick-to-the-role, adding odd mannerisms or knowing asides, as if to say, "I, the star, realise this is merely a child's fantasy," Landau seems offended at the suggestion.

"Well, that's a day job. I don't ever do that. The thing that I embraced when I read the script was that I wanted it to go where it is. ... It's a marvellous story."

Landau, a dedicated method actor who taught Jack Nicholson and others at the West Coast Actor's Studio, took the role so seriously that he travelled to Prague two weeks early to take marionette lessons.

"Prague is the marionette centre of Europe — you go down the old streets and there are marionette shops everywhere," Landau says, raising his arms and playing his fingers to demonstrate his technique.

"I learned the European system — I got so I could walk them and move the arms and sit up and down, on my shoe and other things, just so I could feel comfortable with it. And they're heavy, so it's good that I did that."

Landau also chiselled wood in the Czech country-side with a master marionette maker, and took horse and cart lessons.

Heads turn in the posh lounge of the Park Avenue hotel where we sit over coffee. Landau, whose thick eyebrows and hair are almost solid gray, has acted in about 75 films, more than 500 TV shows, "and a lot of theatre, too," in his four decades as an actor.

Born in New York City, he got his first job as an illustrator at the New York News, then quit to take acting lessons with Lee Strasberg. His first major film role was the villain in Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 thriller *North By Northwest*.

But aside from his role as Rollin Hand, the master of disguise on the 1960s TV series *Mission Impossible*, much of what followed was forgettable, Landau says.

"People thought I was 'superspy,'" he recalls. "I was just playing mindless characters in meaningless movies ... Professional bad guys. What Do You Do For A Living? I'm A Villain."

"But if you bring anything more to those movies, it becomes indulgent and stupid. Because it's not there. And what's going on around you is a comic strip. So, you're kind of stuck. By complicating and bringing real feelings into those kinds of pictures, you look bad."

Landau went to England for *Space 1999* in the 1970s, and found it even harder to find good movie roles when he returned to Hollywood.

"I was gone for four years, and I didn't know anybody when I came back. All these new kids working behind the desks — it was out of sight out of mind, and casting directors would go, 'who?' they knew me as an actor on television."

Landau eventually persuaded Francis Ford Coppola to cast him as business manager Abe Karatz in *The Godfather Part II*. He played an ophthalmologist who gets away with the murder of his lover in Woody Allen's *Crimes And Misdemeanors*. Both roles earned him Oscar nominations for best-supporting actor. And last year, he finally won the coveted prize for his portrayal of Lugosi, the aging Dracula star, in *Ed Wood*.

Landau, who is divorced from *Mission Impossible* co-star Barbara Bain, wears a thick silver theatre talisman, the faces of tragedy and comedy, in place of a wedding band. He seems to live for acting, and finally has the clout to do the work he loves.

Hours earlier, he was in Los Angeles, doing aerobics with Halle Berry during a scene in *Batman Returns*, a comedy directed by Robert Towne. And he now has his own production company, Silver Street, backed by enough money to ensure that several films a year actually get made.

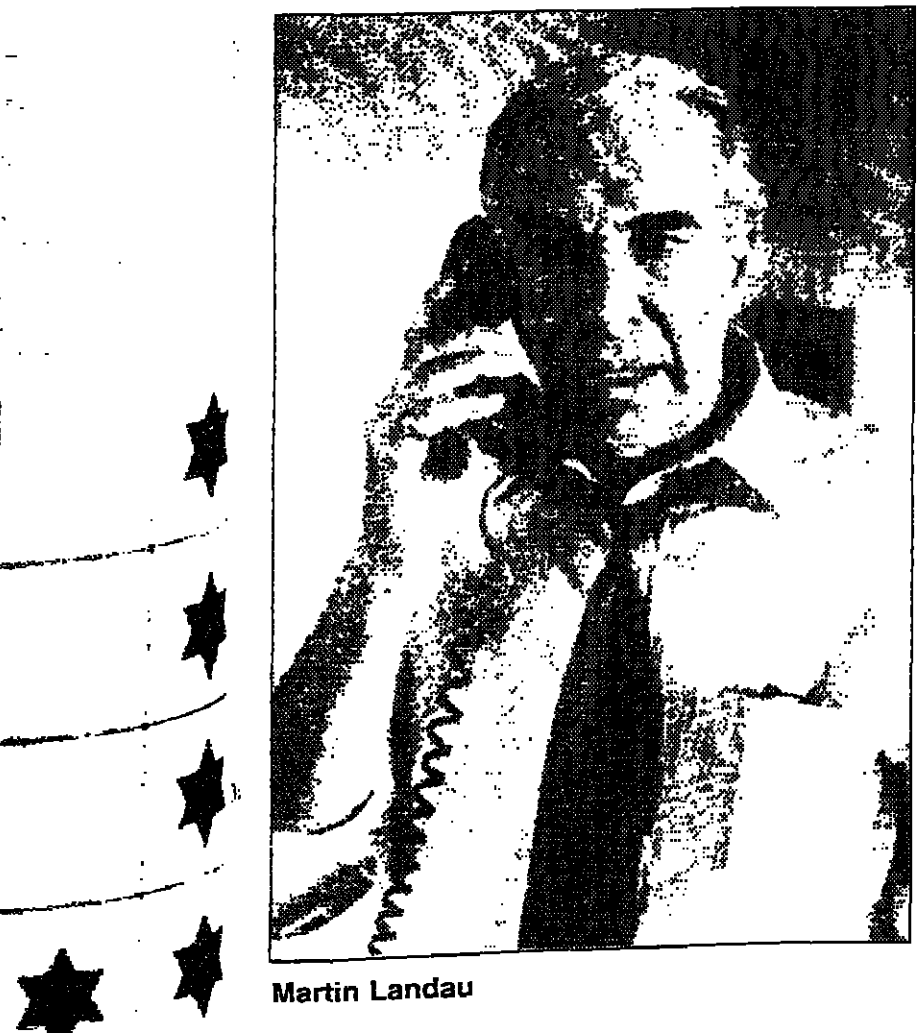
"It's not about vanity. It's about getting what we want done," Landau says. "It just expedites things. I can reach a lot of people very quickly. Sharon Stone, who I saw the other night, she said, 'give me first shot at anything that's right for me.' And that's great."

Landau comes off as gracious, earnest and surprisingly open for someone who has survived for so many years in Hollywood. He seems offended only once — when I ask him how old he is.

"I don't know. Really. Every one of those books have a different age," Landau says, bristling. "It has nothing to do with what I can do as an actor."

Suddenly, Landau is Karatz. He has aged 10 years in a blink and become a doddering, forgetful old man. He tells a joke and mumbles a bit just to be sure I'm convinced. Persuading Coppola — who was looking for someone who appeared shorter than co-star Jeff Bridges, and much older — took only a few minutes longer, he says.

"He hired me, and every day I got a little older and a little shorter," Landau says, reaching for more coffee. "Why get pigeonholed? It only hurts you."



Martin Landau

Cloned sheep success may cut human transplant shortage

By John Newell

U.K. SCIENTISTS have succeeded in cloning sheep. They have artificially produced several lambs with identical genomes. This is the first time that large mammals have been successfully duplicated this way — opening the gates to mass-producing farm animals with specially desirable characteristics, such as high meat or milk production.

The scientists, led by Dr. Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, Scotland, carried out the experiment by taking sheep embryos that were a few days old and multiplying them in laboratory culture over a period of several months.

Electric pulse

The cells produced in this way were then fused, using a brief electric pulse, with unfertilised eggs that had earlier had their own nuclei removed. This produced eggs that went on to develop as though they had been fertilised normally, although all the genetic material in every egg came from just one sheep.

The eggs were transferred to the uteri of sheep and some developed normally. Several lambs were born and grew normally. Scientists now anticipate using cloning, eventually

ly combined with genetic engineering, to speed up the adding of new desirable characteristics to farm animals.

The technique is still at an early stage of development. Although large numbers of early embryos have been produced, only a few have developed to term. Of five lambs born in the first experiments, only two survived. The next step is to increase the success rate of the process.

Earlier experiments succeeded in cloning mice, but this is the first time that large mammals have been successfully cloned. Work is already under way in various laboratories to try to clone cattle and pigs.

Required characteristics

The use of cells that had been grown and had divided in culture over a long period opens up exciting possibilities, of becoming able to improve farm animals genetically without the limitations of conventional animal breeding programmes.

Well-proven techniques for introducing genes into animal cells already exist. These techniques could be used to introduce genes for wanted characteristics into the embryo cells grown in culture and used to provide donor nuclei.

In this way wanted genes for any required characteristic could be introduced into cloned animals, without the need to introduce many other, often unwanted genes as well, as

must happen in conventional animal breeding.

Cloning could also be used to speed up the production of animals genetically engineered for special purposes, such as the production of human body substances for use as medicines, or the provision of organs for transplant.

Other British research teams have already raised sheep that produce alpha antitrypsin, required for the treatment of emphysema, and clotting factor IX, required for the treatment of haemophilia, in their milk. A team at the Imvuran company and Cambridge University has developed pigs whose organs are not rejected by the human immune system. These are called transgenic organs.

Animal donor parts

These developments will, it is hoped, allow diseases that are difficult or risky to treat by conventional means to be treated safely and effectively. They could also put an end to unnecessary loss of human life as a consequence of the growing shortage of human donors for organs.

As the techniques needed to create the transgenic animals required for these purposes become established, and their products are shown to be effective, the demand for the animals will rise rapidly. Cloning could offer a means of multiplying them much more rapidly than conventional means. The factors that contribute to successful cloning are now

becoming clear, thanks to the work at Edinburgh. Ovulated oocytes — egg cells — are clearly much better recipients for donor genetic material than are fertilised eggs.

This may be because cytoplasmic factors necessary for chromosomal remodelling and gene activation are phased out of the egg after fertilisation (possibly by time-dependent degradation).

The fact that the ability to clone large mammals has been demonstrated has inevitably led to speculation about the same thing being attempted with humans.

Dr. Wilmut and his colleagues are vehement in their opposition to the idea. "I cannot imagine a clinical reason why one would want to do it and I think it would be totally unacceptable and probably illegal," he says.

Lord Robert Winston, Professor of Fertility Studies at Hammersmith Hospital in west London, says: "1990 legislation would forbid this being used for humans in the U.K. and there are no plans to use it anywhere in the world as far as I know."

The Reverend John Polkinghorne, a former scientist, now president of Queens' College, Cambridge, and chairman of the Anglican Church's Science and Medicine Committee, said it would be "totally unethical" to clone humans.

However, he and spokesmen for other religious persuasions generally see no objections to the cloning of animals, as long as no suffering is involved — LPS Feature.

Cool light beam burns away oral cancer

A LASER-CUTTING device for treating oral cancer removes the affected tissue and helps patients to maintain their quality of life with the minimal disruption.

Instead of using a scalpel to cut out tumours, doctors can give patients a drug that makes the diseased tissue ultra-sensitive to light and then destroyed by a laser beam. The procedure has been developed by a team of medical researchers at the University College of London (UCL).

The technique, called photodynamic therapy (PDT), uses cold laser light to cause a photochemical reaction and kill the diseased cells. Healthy tissue is unaffected.

Here, a patient is shown undergoing laser surgery at the UCL centre in London. After a week or so there will be little evidence of a removed tumour in most minor cases.

Oral cancer is the sixth most common cancer in the world affecting some 2,400 people each year in the United Kingdom. More than 100 patients have been successfully treated in a trial at the UCL centre with



the photosensitising drugs and cold laser technique. The UCL team is keen to spread the use of PDT in treating patients with widespread superficial disease. The new process impinges far less on the patient's quality of life than conventional treatment such as radiotherapy or surgery — London Press Service.

Breast-feeding is essential for babies, mothers — U.N.

GENEVA (AFP) — Every mother should have the chance to feed her baby exclusively from the breast till the age of four to six months as this protects both mothers and babies from illness. The World Health Organisation (WHO) said here marking world breast-feeding week.

The campaign for breast-feeding has also been supported for several years by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) which says that every year more than a million young children die and millions more suffer from disease or malnutrition because they have not been correctly weaned.

"Breast milk is the sole truly universal food for the entire human species," said Doctor Hiroshi Nakajima, WHO director-general, in a statement of support for the week which ran from Aug. 1 through 7.

Dr. Nakajima went on: "All mothers should be enabled to practise exclusive breast-feeding and all

babies should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to four to six months of age. Thereafter children should continue to be breast-fed, while receiving appropriate and adequate complementary foods, for up to two years of age and beyond."

As well as being a nutrient, mother's milk stimulates the child's immune system when he is at his most vulnerable, WHO and UNICEF said. At the same time, the mother who

breast-feeds is less prone to cancer of the ovaries or anaemia.

The two U.N. bodies said the number of "baby-friendly" maternity hospitals encouraging breast-feeding both in the developed countries and the Third World had risen to 7,779 from 4,282 at the end of last year.

Bottle-feeding caused a rise in baby deaths, WHO said, especially in the Third World.

Study: One dose of drug halves angioplasty risk

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A single dose of a drug that uses monoclonal antibodies to prevent blood clots can cut in half complications after angioplasty, doctors told a conference Monday.

Researchers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina said the drug, known as Reopro, cut the need for additional surgery and reduced deaths from heart attacks.

Angioplasty involves opening a clogged blood vessel with a tiny balloon. But the

procedure can knock loose plaque build-up from inside the artery.

Reopro uses monoclonal antibodies — proteins that can find and attach to specific cell targets — to stop platelets in the blood from sticking together.

The doctors described two trials involving a total of nearly 5,000 patients in the United States and Canada. Both found that Reopro greatly reduced complications from the surgery.

The trials found a 60 per cent reduction in deaths

among patients who had suffered from acute heart attacks or angina (chest pain) when they had angioplasty.

"One month after treatment, overall death, recurrent heart attacks and urgent repeat angioplasty or bypass surgery were reduced by up to 59 per cent in all patients who were treated with Reopro," Duke University said in a statement.

"These findings are highly promising a new way to make angioplasty a safer and more lasting treatment

for heart disease," said Dr. Eric Topol, who helped coordinate the study.

Interim findings from the studies have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine and the Lancet medical journal, but the final results were being presented for the first time to 16,000 delegates at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Birmingham.

Reopro, manufactured by Centocor Inc of Malvern, Pennsylvania, is marketed by Eli Lilly and Co.

Cow's milk not linked to childhood diabetes — report

CHICAGO (R) — Fears that giving cow's milk to infants increases the risk of the child developing diabetes are probably unfounded, a recent study said.

Researchers at the University of Colorado at Denver found babies under the age of three months who consumed proteins found in cow's milk were not more likely to develop a type of autoimmune disorder that is an early pre-

dictor of diabetes.

The authors of the study, which was published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association, said it disputed previous reports that showed a 60 per cent increased risk of diabetes from cow's milk.

The Colorado researchers screened 253 children from 171 families identified to be at risk for insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

No connection was found between cow's milk and the 18 cases of B-cell autoimmunity that were uncovered, study author Jill Norris said.

Scientists do not understand what triggers autoimmune diseases, believing it to be an interaction of several genes and the environment. University of Florida pathologists Desmond Schatz and Noel MacLaren wrote

in an accompanying editorial.

"Cow's milk has many valuable nutrients and forms a critical part of the diet of many infants and children throughout the world. Thus, feeding practices that exclude cow's milk should not be adopted without a strong scientific indication. In our opinion, such an opinion has not been clearly established," they wrote.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SUNRISE, SUNSET
By Harvey Chaw

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Diagramless, 19x19

By Harold B. Counts

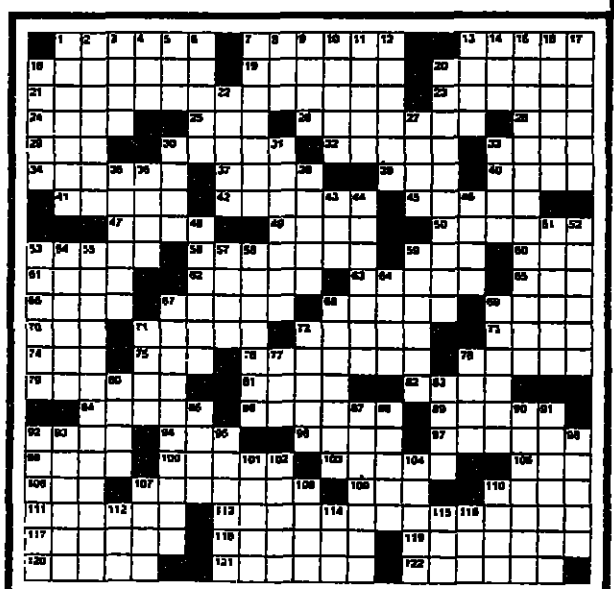
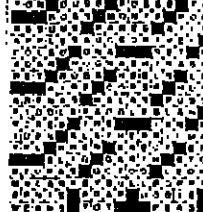
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Poor elderly gent talks about the good old days when coffee cost a nickel, and you could get a complete breakfast for two dimes.
2. Bony, bony, cooking broccoli for baby food, looked through a solder and strained her eyes.
3. Our real estate broker not only makes money, but he has lots!
4. Aging physician faces extremely rigorous annual physical exam from his physician.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LQJE LQJEKQCCDB YASQ YN LJE SBYM
DYATBAQZRY TRYX PZYTPK LME TZM
MYKXKH PKCMBDHH QYDDB SB PMLE.

— By Earl Ireland

2. PENITILE BLAKTLM WNNDM RLT AR MZOV
STPMS WRODUNITS GZUWAVYL MBLKM
GLARKARI H RTB OVNGKYL TITTE MTYR
SIEM.

— By E.C. Doyle

3. ONE-WIFE FRUITY BTE URFITY BZE AILS
DIE IT BTH APOVLRZOTD SIL EBN.

— By Ed Haddon

4. ISAWD DZURAS FZD WTZRP YA DYPFS HUD
TFF EAZY FUYN DWIRP SWEETS SWOOPS.

— By Frank N. Stein

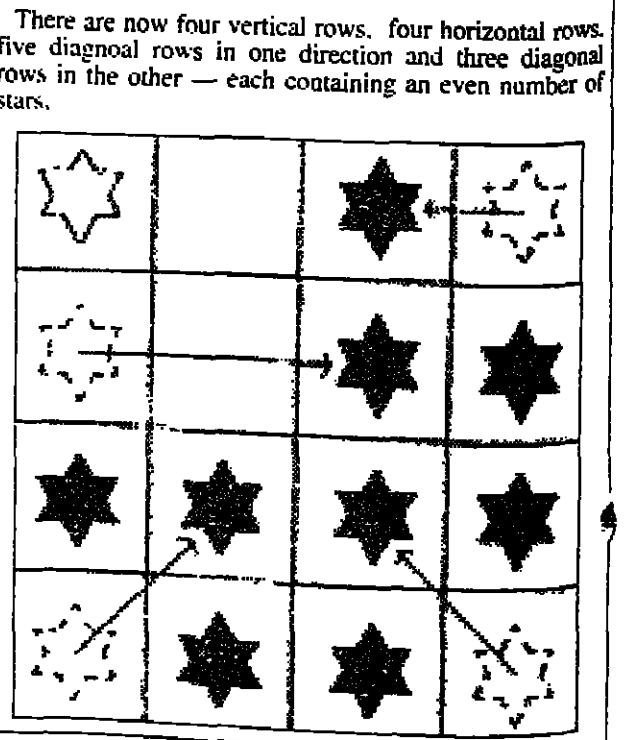
ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Scotland.
2. Georgia, USA. It is Stone Mountain.
3. Balsa.
4. George W. Russell.
5. Orography
6. Fish.
7. One hundred.

PUZZLES

See diagram.





U.S. fires more missiles

(Continued from page 1)

The second attack "was designed to reduce the threats to our airplanes and our pilots enforcing the no-fly zone," he said, citing "no evidence" of an Iraqi press report that a pilotless plane had been shot down.

Washington, backed by London, expanded the no-fly zone in southern Iraq from the 32nd Parallel northwards to the 33rd Parallel on Tuesday. The zone now covers from the Kuwaiti border to within 45 kilometres of Baghdad.

President Saddam chaired a meeting of his air defence forces and army leadership after Wednesday's attack.

He said after the initial U.S. attack that Iraq would no longer respect the no-fly zones in both the south and the north of the country and ordered his army to shoot down any allied planes entering Iraqi airspace.

The U.S. strikes came in retaliation for an Iraqi military move over the weekend into a safe haven for Kurds in northern Iraq where the United States and its allies are enforcing a no-fly zone above the 36th Parallel.

Iraq insists it has pulled troops out of the Kurdish "capital" Erbil, which the army seized together with

Kurdish allies on Saturday. But Gen. Ralston said Iraqi forces remained in the vicinity and a threat to the city. "They are in a position to certainly influence Erbil, and we're still watching that very closely," he said.

With the focus also on southern Iraq, an Iraqi Shiite opposition group warned that "the (Iraqi) army is carrying out widespread operations in the south."

The official newspaper Babel, run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday Hussein, stressed Wednesday that Baghdad would do everything it could to ignore the no-fly zones.

"We are going to fight tooth and nail to defend our sovereignty, our unity, our dignity, our bread, our water and our skies," it said.

Iraq has always expressed its anger at the no-fly zones in the north and the south of the country, condemning them as a flagrant violation of its sovereignty.

In 1993 Iraq moved anti-aircraft missiles into the two zones and anti-aircraft gunners fired at the Western planes, prompting retaliation by U.S. and allied forces.

Baghdad has maintained the U.S.-led coalition that drove its troops from Kuwait in 1993 is disinte-

grating. It noted that France has not supported the strikes and Washington did not attack from bases in neighbouring Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

"Once again we say to the ungodly Americans in a loud voice... (that) from today there are no more imaginary parallel lines... from today there will be no (part) of Iraqi territory off limits to us whether in the north or the south," Babel said in a front-page editorial.

"We shall defend our sovereignty with our nails and teeth," Babel said.

The official Al Qadisiya newspaper said Iraq's decision not to accept no-fly zones was irrevocable. "Iraq has obliterated forever the damned lines north of the 36th Parallel and south of the 32nd Parallel."

Newspapers termed President Clinton "a dinosaur" trying to swallow the world with computerised weapons.

"Let the cursed Clinton be humiliated. The roar of Iraqis will not let him sleep at night," said Al Qadisiya.

A military communique on Wednesday slammed Mr. Clinton for ordering the strikes, saying "the criminal Clinton... added more crimes to his history which is full of vice and crime."

Air raid sirens sounded at 5:30 a.m. in Baghdad and waited for two hours as the United States launched a "mop-up" attack, firing 17 cruise missiles at air-defence targets in southern Iraq. The missiles were launched from U.S. warships and a submarine in the Gulf.

U.S. officials said Tuesday's attack hit surface-to-air missile sites and radar installations near the Talil air base in southwestern Iraq, the Euphrates River city of Nasiriyah, Al Iskandariyah and Al Kut.

Iraq's deputy prime minister said Tuesday that the American attack was unjustified, saying Iraqi forces had withdrawn from Erbil "several hours" before the missile strikes. Tareq Aziz also denied U.S. claims that Iraq had violated U.N. Resolution 688, which prohibits the Iraqi leader from oppressing his people.

"I challenge the American administration (to say) upon what basis of international law... this aggression was being justified," Mr. Aziz told CNN.

But U.S. and Kurdish rebel leaders said Iraqi forces had not withdrawn from Erbil before the attack, and fighting continued to the south and east towards Sulaimaniyah.

German army markets itself to reluctant soldiers

By Stefan Schmitz
Reuter

BONN — In an aggressive marketing blitz, Germany's armed forces are aiming to persuade more young men to do what the law says they must do anyway — military service.

To a pulsating beat, a television commercial shows dramatic action shots of paratroopers, helicopters, tanks and warships in best rock music video style.

A clean-cut young German soldier suddenly appears. "This is the greatest," declares Torsten Lindemann, a rugged 22-year-old recruit from Heiligenhaus.

With more and more potential recruits taking advantage of a provision which allows them to dodge the draft simply by writing a letter outlining why they feel they cannot serve, the Bundeswehr is bringing out the big guns to promote itself.

The advertising blitz that began airing on German television this month, conceived by the Duesseldorf-based Abels Grey Agency, costs more than 10 million marks (\$6.7 million) — almost half the defence ministry's public relations budget.

But it will be money well spent if it can reverse the trend away from military service, officials say.

Around 160,000 of the 415,000 young men called up for military duty last year refused to serve. It was a record, higher even than in 1991, the year of the Gulf war.

The record might be broken this year. The number of conscientious objectors rose slightly in early 1996, the defence ministry said. Although it dipped again in May, the military is not convinced the trend has been broken.

The law requires men to serve 10 months in the military but allows exceptions in which objectors spend 13 months doing civilian work in hospitals or other social functions.

The record number of objectors comes as Germany conducts its boldest foreign military mission in 50 years by contributing soldiers to the international force upholding the Dayton peace accord for former Yugoslavia.

The defence ministry insists there was no connection between the two events, noting conscripts only go on foreign military missions if they volunteer. Pacifist groups tend to concur.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whittling away at a national pacifist streak spawned by the country's militarist past, has insisted unified Germany step up its military role to match its economic muscle and show solidarity with NATO allies.

But young Germans no longer menaced by communism in Eastern Europe relish the idea of staying close to friends and family rather than signing up for life in battle fatigues.

"The armed forces, yes, but without me," one young man told army "Youth Officers", whose job it is to promote understanding of Germany's security policy and support for the military.

In their annual report, they list several arguments given by young men to explain why they chose not to serve in the army.

"Why should I? With civilian service I make significantly more money, work the hours I want, live at home with my parents and see my girlfriend every day," said one pragmatic youth.

To counter this sentiment, the Bundeswehr launched its ad campaign that shows young men singing the praises of army life.

One enthuses about the extra 1,200 marks (\$812) he gets every month by agreeing to extend his service past the minimum term. Another dismisses stories about the hard life in the army and insists he has more friends in the barracks than at home.

Touching on young people's fears about finding a job amid double-digit unemployment, one young soldier points out the army paid for him to get a truck driver's licence. Another says his training as an electrician should pay off in civilian life.

Claire Marienfeld, the parliamentary ombudswoman for the armed forces, warned in her annual report that the Bundeswehr will have trouble filling its ranks in the long run unless young men can be convinced that military service is worthwhile.

She noted that one in three young men subject to the draft preferred to perform alternative service last year, reflecting a widespread attitude that the soldier's life was less useful

than other forms of national service.

"This trend in society is dangerous for military service," she said. "Those who say 'no' to military service often are valued more highly — and not just among young men — than the young soldier whose commitment to society is often disparaged."

The defence ministry says the rise in conscientious objection simply reflects the fact that more young men are being called up under a new system of conscription. It insists the army will remain at full strength into the next century.

Germany, which has clung to conscription as a bedrock of its post-war democracy, even as other European countries switch to professional armies, needs around 170,000 conscripts a year to flesh out its 340,000-man army.

But Marienfeld said it has its work cut out.

"If there is no turning point in the trend toward refusing military service, the armed forces have to expect significant problems in covering their need for conscripts in coming years," she said in her report to the lower house of parliament in March.

"Making military service more attractive is more urgent than ever before," she added, calling on churches, schools and labour unions to instill in young men the value of defending their homes and compatriots by taking up arms.

American action is void of Arab support

(Continued from page 1)

James Baker, who was secretary of state during the Gulf war, told reporters on Tuesday that he expected further American action against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"We're going to have to do other things, and we are going to have the coalition behind us?" Mr. Baker asked.

The Al Rayah newspaper in Qatar said in an editorial that the United States was "muscle flexing" and "found in the Arabs an easy prey as it fires missiles against them, uses them as a field test for its old and modern weapons."

In Egypt, about 2,000 students marched in the southern city of Assiut on Tuesday night and shouted anti-American slogans to protest the U.S. action. Police did not disrupt the protest.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa said his government was disturbed about the missile strikes. Wednesday's Egyptian newspapers — both state-run and opposition — were strongly critical of the U.S. action.

In Libya, Jumaa Al Faz-zani, minister for Arab unity, told the state-run JANA news agency that the United States had no right to intervene in Iraq's internal affairs.

The U.S. missile attacks, he said, constitute "an election card and a chance to conduct more tests of the American arsenal... in contravention of all international laws and conventions."

After the Americans' second assault on Wednesday, Iran's state-run radio accused Mr. Clinton of acting "for campaign purposes."

It added: "America is taking Saddam Hussein's actions as a justification and, under the pretext of instability in the region, is justifying its presence in the Gulf."

Syria's Foreign Ministry condemned the U.S. attacks, saying: "Striking Iraqi positions is an action that violates the U.N. Charter and international laws that ban intervention in the internal affairs of other countries."

It added: "Such acts also will increase the suffering of the Iraqi people."

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the 22-member Arab League, of which Iraq is a member, characterised the American action as "an aggression against the sovereignty of an Arab state" and warned it would lead to further instability in the region.

Kuwaiti armed forces are on full alert and the situation in Iraq is being monitored closely, the defence minister said in interviews published on Wednesday.

"We have a plan in place to meet the situation and we are now executing it in general," Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamoud Al Sabah said in Al Siyassa and Al Anbaa newspapers.

He said Kuwait was monitoring the situation in Iraq closely, but added that what was happening in the north was an Iraqi affair.

He said Kuwaiti forces were on full alert, although he said the borders with Iraq were extremely quiet with no unusual movements reported.

A fundamentalist Saudi opposition movement denounced the U.S. attacks on Iraq as a new "cowardly" crusade against Islam and called on Muslims to fight back.

"This blatant, naked and illegal assault must be responded to," the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said in a statement issued in London.

"Violating the charter of the U.N. and all canons of international law, the Zionist-run U.S. government has launched another cowardly crusade against the world of Islam," the CDLR said.

Russia threatens to veto U.N. resolution against Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gnehm said Iraq had violated Security Council Resolution 688 of April 5, 1991, approved after Baghdad's forces cracked down on dissident Kurds following his defeat in the Gulf war.

The resolution condemns Iraqi "repression" of civilians, particularly in the Kurdish areas. But it does not specifically authorise the use of force nor establish any protected areas in Iraq. Those were set up by the United States, Britain and France outside of the council.

Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov challenged the U.S. interpretation and said the U.S. attacks were "disproportionate."

"It does not flow from the resolutions of the Security Council, if one cares to read those resolutions," Mr. Lavrov said. He added that the only course left to the council was to "express its serious concern at what has happened" and call for restraint.

French diplomats also said they had reservations about the resolution, and private discussions were underway Wednesday to find a common position.

Despite differences, the council agreed Tuesday to renew economic sanctions on Iraq, which were imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The decision followed a report by chief U.N. weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus that Iraq had failed to account for weapons it was supposed to have destroyed after its defeat in the Gulf war.

In Beijing, a foreign ministry spokesman declared "we are concerned with the further action taken by the United States and we hope there will not be a further deterioration of the situation there."

"We believe that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq should be respected," he added.

But the spokesman shied away from an outright condemnation of Washington's two rounds of missile attacks.

British Prime Minister John Major renewed his backing for the new U.S. strikes on Iraqi military targets, saying President Clinton told him about them in advance.

"I have made it clear from the outset that I think he took the right decision — not an easy decision, a rather brave decision," Mr. Major said in Glasgow, Scotland, where he was on a campaign tour.

"I think it was the right decision," he added. "We have seen in the past what Saddam is capable of and we have seen in the past the humanitarian disaster that occurred in 1991."

"I think it was right to make it clear to him that the rest of the world will not tolerate that sort of behaviour again."

France expressed "concern" after the second U.S. missile attack on Iraq.

Foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said: "France remains concerned by the development of the situation in Iraq."

Earlier, speaking on French radio, government spokesman Alain Lamassoure said that French criticism of Tuesday's U.S. missile attack was echoed "by the greater part of the international community."

"The European Union presidency had the same reaction as we did as well as the moderate Arab countries who had supported the United States and the international community during the Gulf war," Mr. Lamassoure said.

Parliament denounces U.S. attacks

(Continued from page 1)

House at the same time appreciates the stands of those nations that opposed the aggression and refuted its justification. The House also urges these countries to adopt a unified and practical stand to stem such further acts of aggression.

The House calls on world parliamentary organisations to express their rejection of this aggression and urge their governments to stand firmly in the face of such barbaric American acts of aggression.

The House appeals to the leaders of the Arab Nation to transcend their differences, unite their ranks and concert their stands in the face of the dangers posed to the Arab Nation and its national security.

It urges them to back the Iraqi people in their efforts to end the sufferings and to lift the embargo imposed unjustly on the Iraqi people and pave the way for the Iraqis to rejoin the Arab fold and contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity.

The House urged the government to pursue efforts aimed at rallying Arab ranks and backing the endeavours to ensure and safeguard Iraq's unity and end the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

During Wednesday's meeting, Mr. Kabariti reiterated Jordan's principled and firm stand in support of Iraq's unity and sovereignty.

He said: "Any military action is bound to result in increasing tension and more sufferings. Jordan rejects any attempt against Iraq's sovereignty and the unity of its people and territory."

Mr. Kabariti reaffirmed that Jordan will never allow its territory to be used as a platform for any military operations by any party against Iraq.

Arafat, Netanyahu meet

(Continued from page 1)

after the other but all together," he said.

Asked for a specific date for the Hebron redeployment and other troop withdrawals, Mr. Netanyahu said: "They'll be discussed as I said in the steering committee."

A Palestinian official said that in the steering committee they would only discuss implementation — and not modification — of the agreement to redeploy in Hebron, the last of seven West Bank cities due to have been handed over to Palestinians under the 1995 peace deal expanding self-rule.

Terje Larsen, the U.N. envoy in the Palestinian territories who mediated the talks which led to Wednesday's summit, said the fuller negotiations would begin on Thursday.

Mr. Netanyahu referred to accusations that his right-wing government which came to office in June wanted to "break up the agreements" reached between the PLO and the Labour government.

"This is not true. This is not our intention, he said. "We want to advance the issues of concern to all of us, and to do so in such a way as to facilitate negotiations on a final status" for the Palestinian territories, he said.

Mr. Netanyahu brushed aside questions about his policy of settling more Jews in lands where the Palestinians want to create an independent state, saying the future of the settlements "is to be discussed in the final status talks" due to be completed by May 1999.

In a gesture to the Palestinians who have been suffering serious hardships due to a six-month-old military closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr. Netanyahu also said his goal was "to not only move on the peace process but to improve the prosperity and economic conditions of the Palestinian people."

"We think that prosperity and peace go hand in hand and I believe we can advance to achieve both goals for the benefit of, both

peoples," he said.

The Israeli leader did not, however, announce any measures to ease the closure. Mr. Arafat said Wednesday's meeting "made progress in all areas, including Hebron," but he did not provide details.

"We are committed to cooperating with Mr. Netanyahu and his government regardless of our political opinions," he said.

"We can work together to advance the peace process," he said. "But the commitments between the two sides are unalterable."

At the start of the one-hour meeting, a grim-faced Netanyahu buttoned his jacket and reached across a table to briefly grasp the hand of Mr. Arafat, dressed in his usual black-and-white checkered headress and olive military-style outfit.

Both Israeli TV stations played the footage of the handshake over and over.

Outside the building, two dozen Israeli peace activists demonstrated near the site. "Bibi, it's about time," read one placard, referring to the Israeli leader by his widely used nickname.

The historic encounter constitutes the first recognition of Mr. Arafat by an Israeli premier from the hardline Likud Party which long opposed Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peacemaking.

The meeting was expected to help clear the air between Israelis and Palestinians after months of growing animosity following Mr. Netanyahu's election victory in May.

Mr. Arafat had called Mr. Netanyahu on Wednesday afternoon and apologised for Palestinian author Khalil Sawaheri who wrote in the Al Ayyam daily Tuesday that the Israeli prime minister was "more Nazi than Hitler."

Since taking office in June, Mr. Netanyahu has complained that Mr. Arafat has not lived up to the peace agreements already signed. The Palestinian leader has been angered by Mr. Netanyahu's decision to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and by Israel's stalling on the promised troop pull-

back from Hebron.

The meeting was made possible by a joint statement concerning the future of peace negotiations that was vague enough to satisfy demands by both sides.

The statement said that Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would renew negotiations at all levels and that a liaison committee would oversee implementation of agreements already signed, also concerning Hebron.

Mr. Netanyahu wants Mr. Arafat to renegotiate the terms of a Hebron troop pullback to better ensure the safety of 450 Jewish settlers living in the heart of the city of 120,000 Palestinians.

The Palestinians have said they are willing to discuss some changes in the terms of the Hebron redeployment, but do not want to promise this in writing out of concern this could set a precedent for renegotiating other elements of agreements already signed.

The negotiations leading up to the summit were spearheaded by Mr. Larsen, who is the senior U.N. official in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Larsen had tried to help the two sides assemble a package agreement that also included the operation of a Palestinian airport, the release of Palestinian prisoners and an easing of Israel's six-month closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israeli official said Wednesday that the package agreement was not finalised and differences were left to the two leaders.

"No paper has yet been signed, some of the issues will have to be resolved between the two leaders," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

An Israeli source said the Americans hinted that a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton next week was linked to Mr. Netanyahu holding talks with Mr. Arafat (see page 12).

The warning was apparently passed to Mr. Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross during a meeting in Paris last week.

France urges 'oil-for-food' talks

(Continued from page 1)

Those monitors must be in place in Iraq before oil sales can resume.

U.N. diplomats have interpreted Mr. Clinton's statement as a sign that Washington would use its considerable influence to prevent Iraqi sales until the Americans believe the crisis in northern Iraq is over.

Under the plan, Iraq can export \$2 billion worth of oil to buy food and medi-

cine. Iraq has been barred from selling oil under U.N. sanctions imposed after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole has criticised the oil-for-food plan as a reward to a dictator.

But the prospect that the plan might be shelved set off alarm bells among the Russians, French, Turks and others eager to see Iraq resume exports.

Unless it can resume

exports, Iraq cannot resume paying off huge debts to Russia and France. Turkey claims the sanctions have cost it \$26 billion in lost revenue from trade with Iraq.

Still U.N. officials admit it will be difficult to implement the plan as long as northern Iraq remains unstable, since Erbil was to have been a major hub for distributing food in the north.

U.S. officials insist they

are not trying to scrap the oil-for-food agreement and point out the United States helped draft the plan in 1991.

"It is a statement of fact: there is a new situation on the ground," deputy U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm said. "It is simply inevitable that the United Nations must look at what has been agreed to insure that the... food and humanitarian goods go to the people who deserve it."

U.S. markets take second missile strike on Iraq in stride

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S. markets took a second U.S. missile strike against Iraq in stride Wednesday, as oil and share prices stabilised in generally calm trading.

There was likewise no immediate reaction to an announcement that a U.S. warplane had destroyed an Iraqi mobile anti-aircraft system.

The overall trend was in line with European exchanges but contrasted with activity in Asia, where dealers responded erratically to news that the United States had unleashed a second missile salvo against Iraqi military targets.

Oil prices, after an initial spike on Tuesday, settled down on Wednesday, with U.S. light sweet crude for October delivery trading two cents a barrel stronger at midday at \$23.42.

Some analysts discounted the long-term effects of events in the Gulf, notably as no major disruptions in supplies has been foreseen.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average of blue-chip issues was down 7.7 points, 0.14 per cent, to 5,640.62 at midday, with 150

million shares having changed hands.

Trader Jim Benning of BT brokerage said that while the pace was relatively subdued, dealers were nonetheless keeping an eye on the Middle East.

"It's hard to develop a trend when there are cruise missiles being lobbed around the Middle East," he noted.

There was some tension on the bond market in response to fears that the federal reserve will act later this month to curb growth and inflation by raising U.S. interest rates.

The average interest on 30-year U.S. treasury securities rose to 7.09 per cent from 7.05 per cent on Tuesday.

The market is eagerly awaiting the publication on Friday of U.S. unemployment figures, with a sharp surge in job creation expected to induce Fed policymakers to increase interest rates when they next convene Sept. 24.

Analysts said bond dealers reacted negatively to a weekly survey by the Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi showing that department store sales increased in the final

week of August.

The market apparently paid no attention to an announcement from the Commerce Department suggesting a slowdown in economic activity.

The department said U.S. construction spending declined 1.4 per cent in July, the largest fall since February. The dollar meanwhile was little changed in morning trading in New York after falling back against the mark and the Japanese yen.

Gold was up 70 cents an ounce at \$386.80 an ounce compared to its closing on Tuesday.

Early on Wednesday, the dollar was trading at 1.4840 German marks compared to 1.4848 on Tuesday and 1.0885 yen compared to 1.0927.

The market displayed no apparent response to the second U.S. missile attack, according to one trader with a major European bank here.

"Nobody is really worried," he said, adding that trading was expected to be light on Thursday ahead of the U.S. employment report.

Several oil industry analysts

re-affirmed predictions made Tuesday that the latest U.S.-Iraq standoff would not greatly affect oil supplies and prices in the long term.

The market on Tuesday was initially unnerved by an announcement from President Bill Clinton confirming a U.N. decision to suspend Iraq's authorisation to sell around 700,000 to 800,000 barrels a day to meet its humanitarian needs.

But according to analyst Nizam Sharief of Hornsby and Company in Houston, Texas, "If you take out the 700,000 to 800,000 barrels a day, we are still in a slight over-supply environment."

While inventories are currently low, he predicted that they would expand in the fourth quarter of the year.

"As we go into the fourth quarter we'll find inventories gradually building up. Demand is good but supply is better."

With the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "maximising production" and with the contribution of non-OPEC producers, he said, "there won't be a squeeze."

"Inventories are low but there's not much concern because enough supplies are coming on stream."

Mr. Sharief added that it was unlikely the U.N. "oil-for-food" agreement would be implemented before the U.S. elections in November, as Washington could be expected to veto any move to re-activate the accord.

"You won't see any oil coming out of Iraq before the election."

EIB approves \$20m loan to Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a \$20 million loan to upgrade Lebanon's war-ravaged power network.

The money will be used to build a network of three power substations and 38 kilometres of high-tension cables to feed the Lebanese capital with electricity, the newspaper Al Safir reported. The work is part of a rehabilitation of the electricity network due to be completed by 1999, said the report. Terms of the loan were not disclosed.

In July, Lebanese and EIB officials signed a similar loan agreement worth \$20.3 million. Since 1993, the bank has contributed \$311 million for the development of electricity, water and sewage networks wrecked in the 1975-90 civil war, as well as the repair and expansion of Beirut's seaport and airport.

Six years after the conflict ended, electricity rationing is still common in Beirut.

In another development, the Lebanese central bank reported its foreign reserves in August at \$5.24 billion, an increase of \$760 million since December 1995.

Net foreign currency reserves were \$3.5 billion as of August, an increase of \$700 million this year over December 1995, said banking sources quoted by newspapers Wednesday. Net reserves include only cash, while the broader figure includes other foreign-currency assets.

Foreign reserves have been steadily increasing since Prime Minister Rafik Hariri took over in October 1992, when foreign reserves were about \$800 million.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't be hasty today in making those changes where your career activities are concerned or you may hit big difficulties. Later this evening you can make this time special for your mate by showing more affection.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You may have to revise some plan today for amusements and be sure you do not get into anything too expensive or you could find yourself short of funds when the time comes for the necessities of life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The condition at home could be quite annoying today, so don't allow yourself to get frustrated. Use more gentility later this evening with your mate and improve romance between both of you and you will be very happy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use more care in communicating with others today so that your meaning will not be misinterpreted in any manner. Later this evening you can see close friends and have a good time together while out on the town.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Monetary and other practical matters are not what they seem today, so study them carefully to avoid inaccuracies. Tonight you can meet some knowledgeable person and discuss what progress you can make in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Anything of a personal nature today may appear to have all kinds of strange ramifications, so use objectivity at this time to reduce your embarrassment. Later this evening you can complete a new project which you are given.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan time today to rid yourself of unpleasantness and be tactful, diplomatic with close friends and fellow associates. Concentrate on your gains in the days ahead, so that you can become quite successful and financially well off.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do ask close friends to assist you in personal aims today and use the advice which they give you for your own peace of mind. You can rely more on yourself later this evening with some career activities and gain much success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be careful in handling civic affairs today since otherwise you can lose prestige in the eyes of those in authority and loved ones which is quite important to you. Later this evening can be special for your mate by a surprise gift.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Some out-of-town situation which has many difficulties in it can be turned to your advantage today so keep a cool head and thereby you can handle any matters. Later this evening you can visit close friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study your responsibilities today and plan your time and activities so that you can discharge them wisely. Later this evening you will be able to meet with close friends and have some fun activities together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Postpone discussions with a fellow associate today until a better time and handle your own career wisely. This evening can be spent with knowledgeable people who can make your career more prosperous in the days ahead.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argleton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

A good unposed picture takes patience.

WHAT A FLEDGLING PHOTOGRAPHER CAN ALWAYS USE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: TAVIL IDDEC AEDING DANNEC

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUMPY NUDGE MAGPIE VANITY

Answer: A skunkflint stops at nothing when it comes to this — TIPPING

Japan unlikely to feel pinch from Iraqi oil delays

TOKYO (R) — Japan is unlikely to feel the pinch from a delay in the resumption of limited Iraqi oil sales, as it can turn to other Middle Eastern crudes such as Oman and Dubai, traders said on Wednesday.

The United States launched another missile attack against Iraqi targets on Wednesday, heightening tensions in the area for the second consecutive day.

The build-up to the crisis started last month when Baghdad sent its troops to Kurdish strongholds in northern Iraq, a move which on Sunday prompted U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to postpone plans to implement an oil-for-food deal that would allow Iraq to re-enter the world oil market for the first time in six years.

Asked how the industry was likely to handle the delay in Iraqi crude oil shipments, a dealer with a leading Japanese trading company said: "nothing's going to change. We will continue to buy Oman and Dubai."

In August, Japanese firms began to register with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to conduct negotiations for the import of Iraqi oil and oil products.

MITI officials declined to provide details of the progress of the registration process, but

Japanese oil industry sources said most companies had probably registered, although it was not clear how strong their immediate interest was.

A trader with a major Japanese oil company said that although the possibility of replacing Oman and Dubai with Iraqi crude had been considered, the idea had faded by now amid the current crisis.

"I think it just means that Dubai and Oman will continue to be bought according to our initial plan," he said.

He said this was unlikely to lead to a sharp increase in imports of the two Middle Eastern crudes, but meant instead it was unlikely that imports of Oman and Dubai would decrease and be replaced by Iraqi oil.

Japan was a large consumer of Iraqi oil before Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It imported 217,000 barrels per day (BPD) of Iraqi crude oil in 1989, representing 8.5 percent of its crude oil imports from the Middle East for that year, according to government statistics.

Although no Iraqi oil has been available on global markets since a U.N. sanction was imposed against Baghdad for its invasion, Japan has since found other alternatives to the medium-grade crude oil that it used to buy from Iraq.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

1 Financial nabob

6 Made a high grade

10 Ski lift

14 Texas shrine

15 Money on hand

16 Trick

17 Baseball teams

18 Salad fish

19 Clumsy vessels

20 Elvis hit

23 French department

24 Simian

25 Softens the noise

27 6-pointers

29 Before Castro

31 Headache

34 Remedy letters

37 Ken or Lena

38 Brimless hat

40 Period

41 Make into law

42 — go brag

43 Reside

45 Calendar

46 Indian drums

49 Russian river

51 Towel cloth

52 Legendary bird

54 Small glass

58 Johnson/Miles

61 Fellow

63 Cover with concrete

64 Body cavities

65 In —

66 Bakery worker

67 Entices

68 "— a man with...

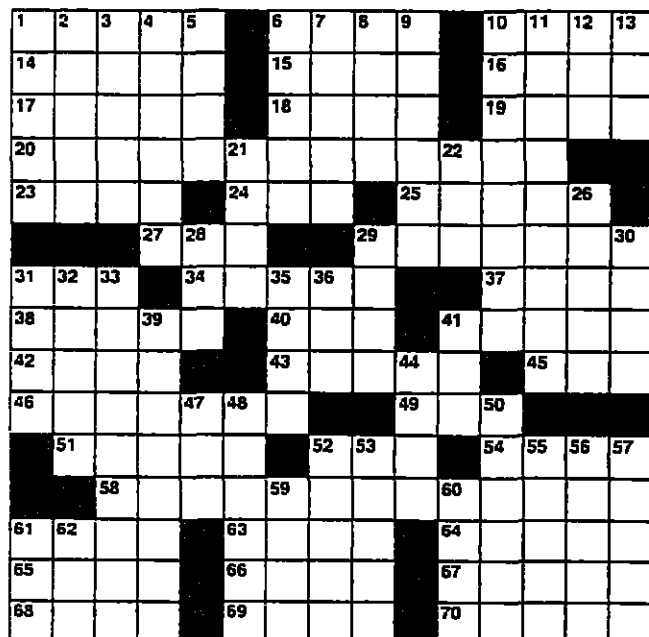
69 Irish forefather

70 Fermenting agent

DOWN

1 Uke's kin

2 "— or a madman" (Rousseau)



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3 Took into custody

4 Egg dish

5 Snack between meals

6 Misbehave

7 Make happen

8 Slave of old

9 Buddhist teachings

10 Tire friction

11 Gene Barry TV show

12 Inquire

13 — judicial

14 Kiln

22 Away

26 Adhere

28 Telegraph code

29 Computer unit

30 Fornicary occupants

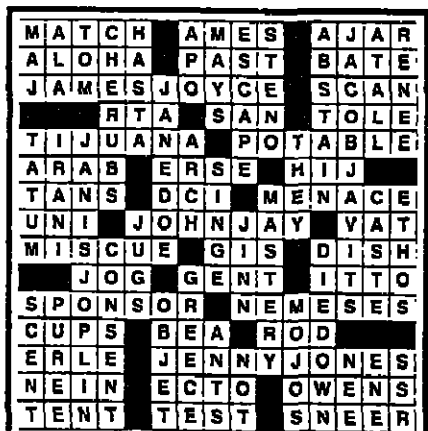
31 Assist, in felony

32 1992 election

33 Hayden/Nelson

34 figure

35 Makes a summation



36 Underhanded

39 Warehouse

41 Antlered animal

44 Centers of activity

47 Globe

48 Nearsighted

50 Boulevard

52 Make merry

53 Apparent

55 Within: pref.

56 Large quantities

57 Smallest amount

59 Grimace

60 Tyne of TV

61 106

62 That guy

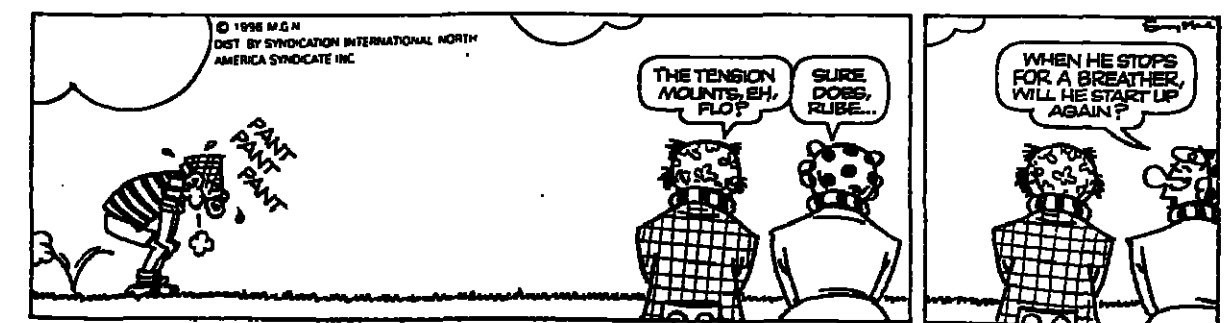


"Whenever my life seems dull, I watch golf on TV and suddenly everything else looks a lot more exciting!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Tackle your career activities in any sphere of your endeavour enthusiastically today and you can get much accomplished. Later this evening you will be able to complete some task successfully and gain much prestige.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) See your barber or beautician today and enhance your appearance which boost your self-confidence. Assist your mate later this evening and be happy together in each others presence and make your romantic times better.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make the improvements today at home which are needed. The evening is fine for entertaining interesting individuals who can be a great help to your career advancement. So listen to suggestion made and take their advice.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle desk tasks today and then get busy at shopping. Take time later this evening to see and be with good friends and you can make this time harmonious and pleasant for you and them for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Enjoy a greater abundance today and you can gain more prestige. Get advice from financiers and accountants and follow it for you to be financially secure and thereby you can be very efficient in your method of operation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan a course of action today which can bring you more personal happiness in the days ahead. Show appreciation later tonight for your friends by doing some special goodwill gesture which will be well-received.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan that course of action today which will gain your finest objectives. See what you can do later this evening to please your loved ones and they will greatly appreciate the gesture of respect and affection.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Choose your friends carefully today and become a happier person in their company and you can gain emotional well-being. Get into amusements together later this evening which will be enjoyed by all who participate in the fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more efficient today and business affairs become more successful, so that you can become quite successful. Handle credit and public affairs quite successfully and you can achieve the prestige which you desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can make wise changes in your method of operation today and this can bring quick advancement and prestige since you will be recognized by those in authority. Later tonight spend some time with loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Handle practical affairs and make them proceed properly and you will be quite successful. Please your mate later this evening by carrying through with plans you have made for some romantic location for a romantic time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Conversations with fellow associates today can solve the difficulties which could exist with relative ease which will create a pleasing environment for advancement. Improve social alliances with close friends later this evening.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

FOR RENT

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Britain approves Lloyd's rescue package

LONDON (R) — The British government on Wednesday approved the Lloyd's of London insurance market's £3.2 billion (\$5 billion) recovery plan which will allow investors finally to walk free of past liabilities.

The plan was declared unconditional last week in terms of its overwhelming acceptance by Lloyd's investors, known as names, and government approval is the final hurdle to securing the market's future.

"Lloyd's is now able to complete its reconstruction and renewal programme," the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Lloyd's said that the market's chairman David Rowland was to ring the Lutine Bell, the symbol of Lloyd's which hangs on a rostrum at the centre of the market's ultramodern underwriting room, later on Wednesday to mark the completion of its reconstruction and renewal programme.

British Trade Minister Anthony Nelson was also due to attend the ceremony after approving the plan which authorises the setting up of a reinsurance company called Equitas to resolve past claims and losses.

The Lutine Bell, named after an 18th century French frigate from which it was salvaged, was traditionally rung once for bad news — such as the loss of a ship at sea — and twice for good news.

"I think you will find he (Rowland) will ring the bell three times," a Lloyd's spokesman said.

Under the recovery proposals, Lloyd's will reinsure billions of pounds in liabilities into a new company, Equitas.

The plan is intended to end years of uncertainty over the scale of massive losses suffered by some investors as a result of unlimited liability to past claims, including those relating to U.S. environmental and asbestos liabilities.

"The fulfilment of Lloyd's reconstruction plan will enhance the security, capacity and competitiveness not only of the British insurance and reinsurance industry, but also of wider capital markets in the U.K.," said Anthony Nelson, minister of state for trade and industry, in a statement.

Congress expected to approve U.S. participation in Mideast bank

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt expects the U.S. Congress to approve American participation in the Middle East and North Africa Bank due to open in November 1997, a senior foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

Rauf Saad, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, told reporters he expected the approval before the end of September.

The agreement to set up the development bank for the region was taken in October 1995 in Amman, during an economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa. Cairo is to host the next such forum in November.

According to Mr. Saad, the share of the United States will stand at around \$52 million to be paid annually over five years.

The bank's declared cap-

ital will be \$5 billion, of which \$1.25 billion will be paid up.

"The United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the peace process, submitted the agreement to set up the bank to the United Nations on August 28," Mr. Saad said.

Mr. Saad said the bank comprised 19 founding nations.

He listed the countries as Egypt, the United States,

Russia, Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Palestine, Japan, Morocco, Israel, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta and South Korea.

But the agreement allows other countries to join the bank, although most European countries and the Gulf Arab monarchies have said they will not contribute capital.

Egyptian shares at 16-month high

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian share prices crept up to a 16-month high Tuesday in trading dominated by registration of shares in a newly-privatised milling company.

The capital market authority (CMA) all-share index closed 0.02 points up at 234.89 in turnover of 183.71 million pounds (\$54.03 million). It has not been so high since late April 1995.

But registration of 4.12 million shares in central and West Delta Flour Mills at the flotation price of 40.00 pounds each contributed 164.92 million pounds of the volume.

The state has privatised 55 per cent of the milling company, despite previous official statements that the state would retain a controlling interest in this strategic sector.

North Cairo Flour Mills dominated the rest of the trade with 30,585 shares worth 2.91 million pounds changing hands. The share closed 0.61 pounds lower at 95.00.

Misr Oil and Soap also saw heavy trade with shares worth 1.21 million pounds changing hands. The share closed 0.20 pounds higher at 29.50.

In the cement sector, among the favourites, Suez

cement finished 0.05 pounds lower at 41.95 pounds.

In the popular milling sector, Southern Cairo Flour Mills was among the market leaders, increasing 0.85 pounds to finish at 45.10 pounds.

The CMA index for openly traded firms declined to 339.84 points from 340.50 on Monday and the index for rarely traded "closed" firms rose to 160.65 points from 160.64.

Gaining stocks outnumbered losers 20 to 9 while another 19 firms were traded but ended unchanged.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK (CMA) AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 607179
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 04/09/1996

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OFFER PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	13.0	1.47	31	640	162167	235.00	238.50	3.50+
4,700	4,250	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	9.2	3.37	4	4357	19183	4.45	4.45	-
1,310	1,180	MID-EAST TRV. BK.	16.1	0.00	12	6300	1401	9.2	9.2	0.1+
5,710	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.2	3.03	3	250	1340	4.59	4.56	-0.03
1,240	890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.69	7	6750	6143	9.1	9.1	-
4,340	3,400	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.2	0.00	20	4053	14406	3.50	3.50	-
3,430	2,330	BRIT. AL-MAL (SETIMA)	1.5	8.43	5	1044	2478	2.36	2.36	-0.02
1,090	220	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	3	2280	473	2.2	2.2	-0.1
1,680	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	8	4150	4594	1.11	1.22	0.1+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 182.77 CHNG: +1.03 93 29810 206500										
2,910	2,150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	9.08	1	100	220	2.17	1.25	0.03+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.58 CHNG: +0.15 2 115 284										
1,900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.74	18	9977	15425	1.55	1.55	-
1,560	1,140	URUD ELECTRICITY	9.7	6.8	6	1650	2145	1.46	1.46	-
2,130	1,080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	8	2000	2365	1.19	1.18	-0.01
1,150	970	JORDAN EMPAT. INV.	29.5	0.00	1	19000	18050	0.99	0.99	-0.04
1,840	1,580	BARAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	950	990	2.08	1.08	-
2,450	1,100	UNITED CO.	9.5	3.56	4	1000	1800	1.83	1.80	-0.03
1,200	820	UNION LAND DEV.	5	0.00	6	2600	2406	0.92	0.92	-0.02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.23 CHNG: -0.09 47 36577 42782										
2,770	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.2	2.98	13	3257	10927	3.38	3.38	-0.02
3,850	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	31.2	0.00	3	500	4590	2.50	2.50	-
5,960	4,100	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.7	3.62	9	2871	18429	6.42	6.42	-
10,550	8,730	JOR. PETROL. RESERVE	9.4	8.62	8	3130	29015	9.26	9.28	-0.02
7,600	7,000	JORDAN TANNING	7.7	5.03	1	50	388	7.15	7.15	-
3,750	1,850	INDUSTRIAL CORN. AG.	23.5	0.00	4	676	1188	1.69	1.75	0.06+
5,100	3,100	ARAB ZEPHYR. WAT.	20.5	5.26	15	2442	9085	3.75	3.75	-0.02
6,450	5,650	JOR. CHROMIUM IND.	7.6	4.07	2	250	1528	6.05	6.15	0.10+
3,600	2,080	JORDAN DALY	12.9	7.14	3	257	330	2.10	2.10	-
8,000	4,250	ARAB ALUMINA IND.	12.9	4.26	8	3210	15227	4.70	4.70	-
2,450	1,350	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.6	8.70	3	1000	3448	3.44	3.45	0.01+
740	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	71	189700	117840	6.1	6.3	0.02+
1,950	1,060	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	8.7	8.09	1	200	384	1.26	1.26	-0.02
2,460	1,210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	327	299	9.1	8.9	-0.02
1,210	680	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9.9	8.96	11	27450	18926	6.7	6.7	-
2,020	1,040	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	18	7700	8316	1.08	1.09	0.01+
1,170	830	JOR. ROUGHWOOD IND.	9	0.00	2	2000	1800	0.90	0.90	-
1,600	830	JOR. WOODWORK. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	2000	1800	0.90	0.90	-
2,180	1,080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	26.8	0.00	11	3700	5223	1.43	1.42	-0.01
1,220	1,060	KAWTHAR INVEST.	50.3	4.29	8	1627	2226	1.40	1.40	-
3,280	1,760	UNIV. MED. TRD.	52.9	11.78	26	27950	46824	1.77	1.77	-0.02
2,100	1,140	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	17.2	0.00	120	3	5017	3.52	3.52	-0.02
1,700	950	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	28.8	0.00	2	7950	7570	0.95	0.95	-0.02
1,490	1,090	INTL. TOBACCO	27.2	0.00	2	200	230	1.15	1.15	-
2,120	1,130	UNION CH. & VEG.	28.3	0.00	9	7700	8855	1.15	1.15	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.83 CHNG: -0.09 257 299469 314141										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 142.53 CHNG: +0.50 399 30972 563707										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 04/09/1996										
800	510	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	21.3	0.00	3	2000	1070	0.54	0.53	-0.01
810	620	JOR. TRADE FAC.	16.3	0.00	13	8900	5434	0.62	0.61	-0.02
950	440	NATL. ORDER. CENTERS	8	0.00	3	1780	842	0.49	0.48	-0.01
960	700	UNION INV. SF	68.8	0.00	3	14800	3335	2.2	2.1	-0.01
1,910	1,320	ARAB FEN. INVEST.	9	0.00	29	25650	13383	0.53	0.52	-0.01
970	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	7	6400	4416	0.71	0.69	-0.02
1,160	530	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	3	1500	795	0.53	0.53	-
1,340	570	ELECT. MFG. IND. (MAMCO)	9	0.00	32	72350	40487	1.52	1.55	0.02+
1,080	770	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	12	20050	15839	0.78	0.78	-
840	430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	16	9280	4625	0.68	0.68	-0.02
940	820	KIDNEY ST. PHARM. 752	9	0.00	4	10000	1900	0.65	0.64	-0.01
1,710	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 754	9	0.00	4	1600	1440	1.15	1.15	-
1,450	770	IND. CERAMIC	30.8	0.00	21	15250	7731	0.53	0.50	-0.03
1,500	530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.4	0.00	28	24650	18468	0.71	0.71	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL 187 216210 122768										

† New 12 months low
* Listed during the past 12 months
P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 4/9/96 19:22

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.4810	0.6382	1.2057	108.79	1.3692	1511.49	1.6610	5.0823	
DE Mark	0.6752	1.0000	0.6382	73.40	0.8241	10.1208	3.4283		
GB Sterling	1.5670	1.5670	1.0000	170.13	2.1455	2367.28	2.6025	7.9629	
CHF Franc	0.8284	1.2230	0.8284	1.0000	1.1358	1262.20	1.3740	4.2122	
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3692	0.5881	1.0707	1.0000	13.38	152.56	4.8995	
CAD Dollar	0.7394	0.8110	0.6752	0.7340	1.0000	1103.27	1.2122	3.6988	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9795	0.4219	0.0797	1391.01	0.9058	1.009	3.3613	
NL Guilder	0.0020	0.8110	0.3633	0.7235	155.43	0.8240	0.9091	3.0577	
FR Franc	0.1966	0.2913	0.1255	23.6975	21.38	0.2693	32.68	32.6800	

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	22.60	22.35
N. Sea	23.35	23.30
Bony	22.60	22.35
Dubai	20.10	20.05
UL Gas	211.00	217.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.3951	0.17014	0.32167	29.0208
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40347	0.17373	0.32848	29.6349
KW Dinar	3.3406	4.9505	2.13174	4.03063	363.636
BR Dinar	0.3770	0.53082	0.24262	0.47262	288.684
CY Pound	2.1729	3.2198	1.3868	2.6198	235.51

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	385.5	388.1
Silver (oz)	5.18	5.22
Platinum (oz)	394	395
Alum (Metric)	1500	1600
CU (3 Months)	2015	2023
ZN (3 Months)	1035	1039
Lead (3 Months)	815	816
NI (3 Months)	7550	7555

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-9-	-1-
C'ncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.37	5.50	5.84	5.84	6.18
GBP	5.52	5.65	5.65	5.52	5.71
JPY	0.31	0.35	0.39	0.53	0.65
DEM	3.02	3.03	3.09	3.00	3.25
FRF	3.63	3.90	4.05	4.08	4.15
CHF	1.44	1.84	2.00	2.18	2.15
ITL	8.69	8.58	8.43	8.40	8.35

Sampras serves up big win against Philippoussis

NEW YORK (R) — Top-seeded defending champion Pete Sampras turned the expected serving show-down against Mark Philippoussis into a run-away jaunt into the U.S. Open quarter-finals Thursday.

Much had been made of the potency of the Philippoussis serve and by the fact that he had topped the world number one in the third round of the Australian Open earlier this year.

But Sampras was neither bothered by the Australian's 17 aces nor by their mutual history as he relied on his own serving prowess and experience as a seven-time grand slam singles champion for a methodical 6-3 6-3 6-4 victory.

"To beat him in straight sets with all the media hype is pretty solid," Sampras said of a victory under the National Tennis Centre Stadium lights that raised his nighttime record at the Open to 11-0.

The three-time Open champion was near the top of his game in almost every department. The 25-year-old American had 11 aces, faced one break point and was sound from the back-court where he rifled 10 winners.

"I looked on it as a very dangerous match," Sampras said of the rubber match in the grand slams against Philippoussis this year after beating him in the second round at Wimbledon. "It was a match where you needed to stay on your toes and that was my mindset."

A key to the mindset was to remain unrattled by a barrage of Philippoussis aces.

Patience of another sort might be required for Sampras in his upcoming match against unseeded Spanish baseliner Alex Corretja, a 6-4 6-3 7-6 win-



Top seed Pete Sampras, from the United States, gives the cheering crowd a thumbs up sign as he leaves the court after beating Australian Mark Philippoussis during their fourth round U.S. Open match. Sampras defeated Philippoussis 6-3 6-3 6-4 (Reuters photo)

ner over French veteran Guy Forget.

"It's a match that I'm going to need to keep the balls back and serve well, come in a little bit," Sampras said.

Philippoussis, though, lost his patience, trying to

load up too much on his first serves.

That inexperience also showed, on the only break point the 19-year-old had. Trailing 3-1 in the final set, he overhit a forehand service return into the bottom of the net.

Sampras climbed on top quickly when Philippoussis committed four double faults in the third game of the match. The last, on break point, put him behind to stay, except when he briefly held serve for a 1-0 lead in the final set.

The Stefan Edberg farewell bandwagon rolled merrily on as the 30-year-old unseeded Swede rallied

to beat unseeded Englishman Tim Henman 6-7 7-6 6-4 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals here for the first time since winning his second of his consecutive titles in 1992.

"Now starts the rally tough matches," Edberg, who has announced this will be his last grand slam, said of taking on fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic next.

Riddling the court with 20 aces, Ivanisevic beat unseeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev 6-4 3-6 6-3 7-6 to put him into the final eight for the first time in his career.

Seles, Martinez in U.S. Open semis

NEW YORK (R) — Her grand slam hopes at the French Open and Wimbledon were shattered by early-round upsets, but Monica Seles delivered an emphatic boost to her U.S. Open aspirations by humbling Amanda Coetzer Tuesday.

Seles, the 22-year-old second seed, unleashed the full repertoire of her shots on the unseeded South African in a 6-0 6-3 quarter-final shellacking that took just 48 minutes under the National Tennis Centre Stadium lights.

"I definitely wanted to come out attacking and play my game," said Seles, who was ousted in the Wimbledon second round after crashing out in the quarter-finals at the French Open.

In the opening set, Coetzer, the highest-ranked player not seeded here, played as if the lights had been turned out on her side of the court, managing to win just five points.

"There's not much you can do when she's playing that well," said the 17th-ranked South African, who finally got on the scoreboard by holding serve at 0-3 in the second set. "It was pretty tough to be out there."

Seles has been pretty tough on her next opponent, too: fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez has never taken a set in eight matches against her. The Spaniard advanced with a 7-6 6-0 win over unseeded



Monica Seles

American Linda Wild.

Seles is not taking anything for granted in the rematch of last year's semifinal.

"For sure she is a tough player," Seles said of the 1994 Wimbledon champion, who now has reached the semifinals of every grand slam this season. "I have to hit a lot of winners. If they're in, great. If they're not, then I'm in trouble."

Martinez was in trouble in the first set when wild had three set points in the tiebreaker. But the Spaniard won the next five points.

"What was going through my mind was: just keep fighting," said Martinez of being down 6-3 in the tiebreaker. "If you keep fighting, you can always come back."

Coetzer might have been thinking the same thoughts, but Seles never gave her a chance to

mount a comeback. "She hardly made any errors," said Coetzer. "I was just struggling to get into the match."

The other two semifinal slots were to be decided Wednesday when top seed and defending champion Steffi Graf was to take on unseeded Austrian Judith Wiesner, and 16th-seeded Swiss teen sensation Martina Hingis was to face seventh-seeded Czech Jana Novotna.

Asian Basketball Championship Jordan beats Singapore 83-51

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S under-18 basketball team Wednesday scored their first victory at the Asian Junior Basketball Championship currently underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, when they beat Singapore 83-51 on the third day of the 15-nation tournament.

Jordan's team, the bronze medalist in last year's championship, fell out of contention for the semifinal round after losing 83-73 to the Philippines and also 67-

42 to Qatar.

Only the top two teams in each of the four groups moved to the semifinal round which starts Thursday.

The other three groups include:

Group 1: Korea, India and Malaysia
Group 2: China, Kazakhstan, Japan and Bangladesh
Group 3: Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Iran and Hong Kong.

The Asian Basketball Confederation had placed Jordan atop group three after having won third place in their first Asian participation

last year. The team then beat hosts the Philippines in the final second 72-71. Singapore 88-35, Hong Kong 71-24, Japan 73-56 and Thailand 62-56. They lost twice to eventual titleholders South Korea 75-61 and 69-51, and to second-placed China 88-49 in the semifinal round. The record-setting team thus became the first Jordanian team to qualify for a world championship.

However, that feat was impossible to repeat this year as Jordan Basketball Federation officials noted that a host

of reasons, including the timing of the tournament for mostly tawjihi students as well as the unavailability of training facilities and enough funds prevented them from better preparing for the 15-team tournament.

The team includes Tawfiq Marar, Iyad Abdeen, Ayman Du'yeb, Bashir Huneidi, Mrhef Nabulsi, Ala' Bilbeisi, Ra'fat Daraghmeih, Mohammad Bashir, Mo'tasem Salameh, Bassam Qamhih, Nihad Madi, Leith Farouqi and Omar Abdallat.

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**GCE/IGCSE
EXAMINATIONS**

The British Council would like to announce that entries for GCE January 1997 and IGCSE November 1996 Examination will be accepted from Sunday 8 September to Thursday 12 September 1996.

Registration time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are required to bring with them an official identification and a passport photograph.

We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Please ask for Miss Diana Muasher.

Registered in England as a charity No. 209131

VACANCY - RECEPTIONIST / TYPIST

The regional office of an international company in Amman needs a female Jordanian to work as Receptionist / Typist.

Required Skills:

- Secretarial Certificate.
- Strong typing skills (accuracy and speed).
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Computer proficiency in Microsoft Word. Knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Power Point is an advantage.

This position will be filled on a temporary contract basis subject to renewal as company needs dictate.

Please fax resume to 06-687219 or mail CV to: P.O.Box 830848, Amman-11183, Jordan.

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1996.

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T O D A Y A T	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	JADE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki....in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155

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Tyson says he is now a better fighter

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson considers himself a better fighter than when he unified the title in 1987, but said even he would be unable to defeat his younger self.

"I'm a better fighter now than I was back then, but I couldn't beat that guy," Tyson said. "That guy was awesome. He was a wild man. My lifestyle now is totally different. That is what makes me a better fighter."

World Boxing Council champion Tyson faces World Boxing Association champion Bruce Seldon here Saturday in the first meeting of heavyweight kings since Tyson beat Tony Tucker 9 years ago to unify the titles.

Only the WBA crown is at stake. Britain's Lennox Lewis has a court order mandating he be the next WBC title challenger.

Tyson (44-1, 38 knockouts) is an overwhelming favorite to beat Seldon (33-8, 29 knockouts), but he shrugs off such notions.

"I don't want to be put in the position where I think I am invincible like I did when I was younger," Tyson said. "I was totally out of control."

"I was drinking and hanging out with women the week before a fight, the night before a fight. A guy like that doesn't last too long. You see what happened to me."

Tyson went through a turmoil-filled marriage and divorce, lost his title in 1990 to unheralded Buster Douglas and spent three years in prison for the rape of a beauty pageant contestant.

By comparison, Seldon has served four years in prison for grand larceny and promoter Don King has served four years in connection with the 1966 beating death of a former employee.

Tyson was released 18 months ago and has won his three fights since, receiving \$65 million for 17 minutes of work over the past 13 months. Tyson was to have fought Seldon in July but Tyson caught bronchitis.

"I have been through a great deal," Tyson said. "You can't expect somebody to deal with in a year what it took three years to live."

"Look at my situation. Even though I allowed other people to contribute to it, I have to carry the weight of a fool. I didn't create this image alone. But I have to carry it alone."

Tyson talks of himself as two different people in his days before and after prison, which he said taught him a great deal about the world outside his once-structured lifestyle.

"I like that guy I was before I went to prison," Tyson said.

"The guy was just foolish. Hell of a guy. But that guy can't survive in this world now. He wasn't tough enough."

Tyson has a steady girlfriend, Monica Turner, who bore him a daughter, Rayna, on Valentine's day this year. Tyson has settled down. But he refused to call himself happy, even saying he doubts he can ever feel that way.

"I'm just not a happy man by nature," Tyson said. "I have been through some ordeals in life. I am suspicious. I have enjoyed some moments. But I am prepared for anything every time. I'm in love with a woman, but I truly don't believe anyone can make me happy. I have to deal with that myself."

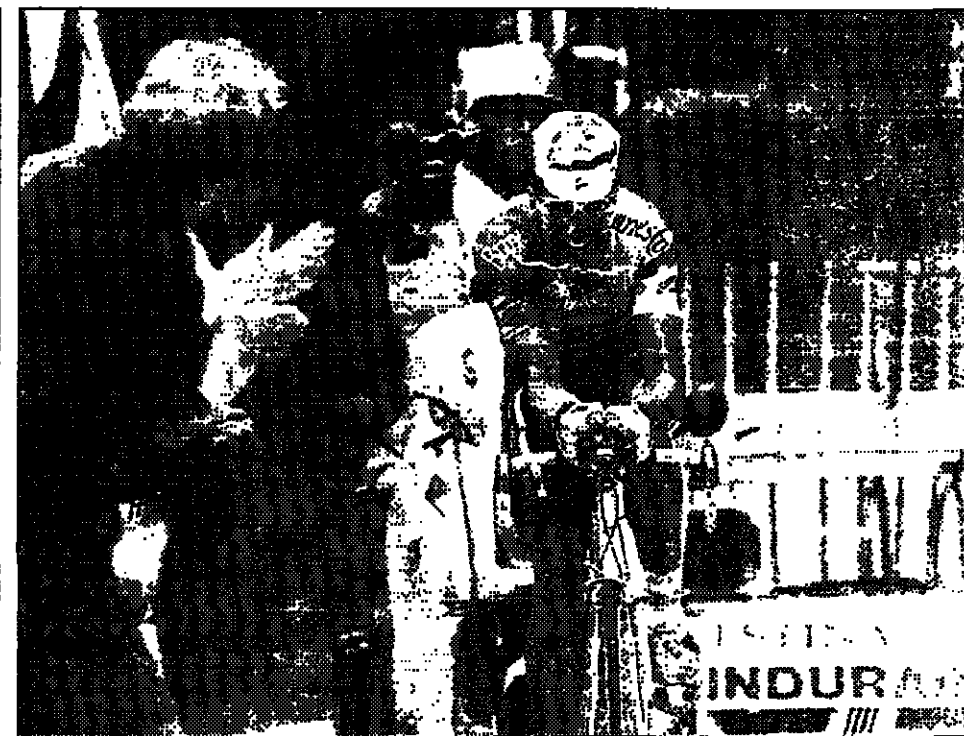
Feyenoord go top

AMSTERDAM (R) — Feyenoord Rotterdam completed their third consecutive victory by beating Fortuna Sittard 2-0 away on Tuesday to go top of the Dutch first division.

A sixth minute goal by Swedish international Henke Larsson and a spot kick converted by Ronald Koeman took Feyenoord one point clear of second-placed PSV Eindhoven, who have a game in hand.

Koeman was returning after a three-match suspension for a red card received at the end of last season. He scored from the penalty spot after winger Gaston Taument was brought down by midfielder Robert Loontjens. After Larsson's early goal gave Feyenoord the initiative they had little trouble in controlling the match.

PSV can regain the lead on Thursday when they are at home to RKC Waalwijk.



Five-time Tour de France champion Miguel Indurain

Indurain to quit cycling

MADRID (AFP) — Miguel Indurain, who failed in his attempt to win a record sixth consecutive Tour de France in July, will quit cycling in December, the sports paper as reported on Wednesday.

Indurain and his Banesto team could not be reached for comment.

The paper says Indurain has said his best days are behind him.

Indurain, 32, won the Olympic time-trial at Atlanta in August when the sport's top professionals competed in the games for the first time.

His contract with Banesto forces him to ride in the Tour of Spain, which starts on Saturday, for the first time in four years.

Banesto had already contacted Spain's 1995 world champion Abraham Olano, who rides for the Italian team Mapei, to replace Indurain, as reported.

Eastern contenders stumble on West Coast; Cards rout Astros

OAKLAND (R) — The three American League eastern division contenders all stumbled on the West Coast Tuesday, while the Chicago White Sox continued their wild-card drive.

In Oakland, Tony Batista's one-out single scored Ernie Young to snap a seventh-inning tie, lifting the Athletics to a 10-9 victory over the New York Yankees.

Reliever Brian Boehringer (1-3) took the loss as Oakland won for the first time in five home meetings with the Yankees this season. Mark Acie (1-2) got the win and Doug Johns got the last four outs for his first Major-League save.

The Yankees remained four games ahead of second-place Baltimore in the American League east because in Anaheim, Pep Harris got his first Major-League win and Tim Salmon had four hits and three RBI to lead the California Angels to a 10-2 romp over the Orioles.

The Orioles' Brady Anderson tied the American League record with his ninth leadoff homer of the season. Rickey Henderson hit nine leadoff homers for the Yankees in 1986. Bobby Bonds holds the Major-League Mark with 11 in 1975.

Jim Edmonds smacked his 26th homer for California. In Seattle, Mark Whiten homered and drove in five runs and Salomon Torres won for the first time in more than a year as the Mariners defeated the Boston Red Sox 11-9.

In Chicago, Robin Ventura hit a three-run homer in

the sixth to lift the White Sox to a 6-4 victory over the Detroit Tigers, their fifth win in six games.

Chicago leads Baltimore by one game, Seattle by two and Boston by 3 1/2 in the wild card race. The White Sox trail Cleveland by seven games in the central division.

In Milwaukee, Scott Karl scattered nine hits for his first win in eight starts and Mike Matheny punctuated his return to the majors with a homer as the Brewers defeated the Cleveland Indians 8-2 for their fourth win in five games.

At Texas, Mickey Tettleton homered and drove in a season-high four runs and Bobby Witt won for the sixth time in seven starts as the Rangers defeated the Minnesota Twins 9-7.

Tettleton hit a three-run double to cap a four-run first inning against starter Frank Rodriguez (13-11) and added his 19th homer in the sixth for the western division leaders.

In Toronto, Kevin Appier pitched a seven-hitter and Jon Nunnally capped a four-RBI effort with a three-run homer in the eighth, giving the Kansas City Royals their fourth straight win, 5-2 over the Blue Jays.

Appier (12-10) snapped a three-game losing streak with his fifth complete game. He outdueled Pat Hentgen, allowing two runs with two walks and 12 strikeouts. Appier passed Hentgen into second place in the American league with a 3.31 ERA.

Hentgen (17-8), the A.L. Pitcher of the month for July and August, had his four-game winning streak

broken and lost for only the second time in 12 decisions since July 1. He gave up five runs and 11 hits in eight innings, snapping his streak of five consecutive complete games.

Braves, Astros lose

Dave Burba and Jeff Shaw combined on a one-hitter — a leadoff homer by Marquis Grissom — as the Cincinnati Reds scored a 5-1 win Tuesday over the powerful Atlanta Braves, who have lost a season-high four in a row.

Burba (9-13) surrendered Grissom's 21st homer and not much else over six innings. He walked four and struck out seven before leaving for Shaw, who set down nine in a row for his fourth save.

Barry Larkin snapped a 1-1 tie with his 26th homer, a two-run shot off Mike Bielecki (4-3), who replaced Greg Maddux in the rotation. Maddux missed his scheduled start with a hamstring injury but the four-time Cy Young award winner should return this weekend.

In St. Louis, Todd Stottlemyre allowed four hits over eight innings and Brian Jordan, Gary Gaetti and Luis Alica each had two hits and two RBI as the Cardinals moved back into first place in the National League Central Division with a 12-3 rout of the Houston Astros.

Royce Clayton also drove in two runs for the Cardinals, who beat Houston for the 10th time in 12 meetings this season to return to the top spot for the first time since August 19. They lead the second-place

Astros by one-half game.

Stottlemyre (12-10) gave up two runs, walked two and struck out nine for just his third win in 10 starts since July 13. With his 95th career victory, he and his father, Mel, broke the all-time father-son win total with their 259th. The Stottlemyres had shared the record with Dizzy and Steve Trout.

Gaetti put St. Louis ahead for good in the fourth with his 18th homer, a two-run shot off starter Shane Reynolds (16-8). St. Louis padded its lead in the sixth when Reynolds balked home Ron Gant, who reached on a one-out double. Astros manager Terry Collins was ejected for arguing the balk call.

In New York, shortstop Rey Ordóñez's throwing error allowed pinch-runner Chad "Fonville" to score, snapping an eighth-inning tie as the Los Angeles Dodgers held off the Mets 7-6 to move into a first-place tie with San Diego in the National League West.

In Philadelphia, Rookie Scott Rolen, who entered the game in a 1-for-30 slump, homered and drove in a season-high four runs as the Phillies defeated the San Diego Padres 8-2 for

just their third win in 10 games.

Mike Mims (2-7) gave up one run on one hit in five innings with three walks and three strikeouts. Ken Ryan allowed one hit over two scoreless innings for his second save.

Gregg Jefferies also homered for Philadelphia. At Florida, Scott Servais' two-run single in the fifth inning snapped a tie and Jaime Navarro survived five rocky innings to notch his seventh consecutive victory as the Chicago Cubs defeated the Marlins 11-5.

Ryne Sandberg and Gary Sheffield exchanged two-run homers in the first inning. Sandberg's was his 29th for the Cubs while Sheffield's was his 39th, leaving him one behind injured Cubs right fielder Sammy Sosa for the league lead.

In Montreal, David Segui hit a pair of two-run homers and Pedro Martinez struck out 11 over 7 2/3 innings as the Expos won their fourth straight, 9-2 over the San Francisco Giants.

Martinez (12-9) allowed two runs, nine hits and one walk. He has struck out 23 over his last two starts.

Mark Gardner (10-6) surrendered five runs.

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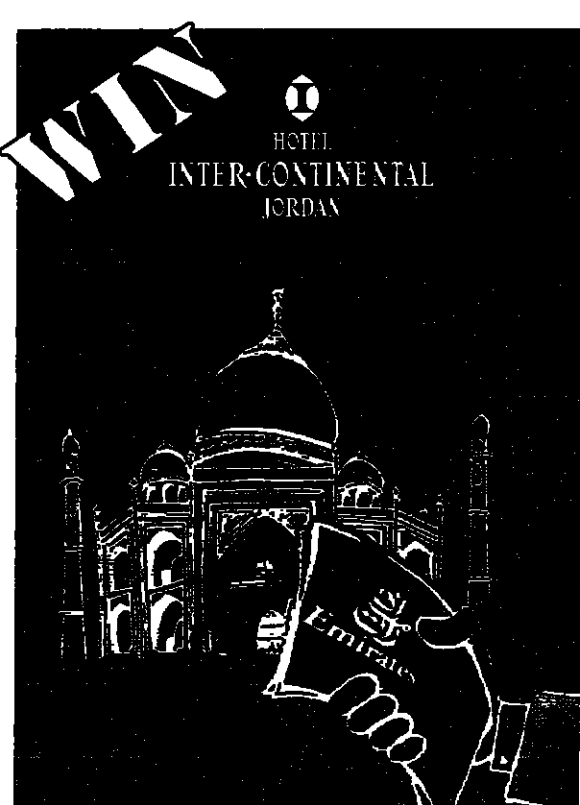
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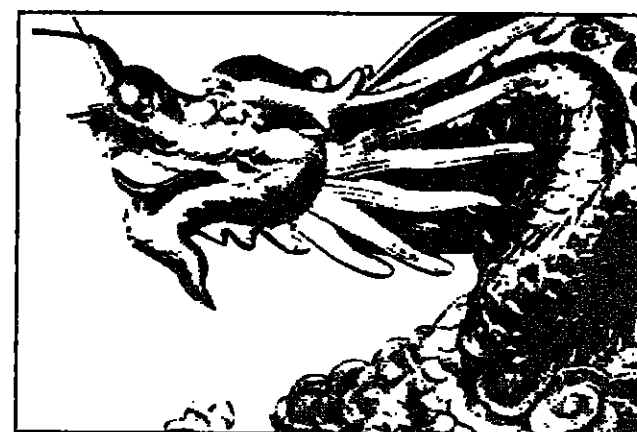
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Opposition downplays talks with Kabariti, insists no climbdown from its demands

IAF deputy says meeting strictly limited to status of detainees

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition downplayed the significance of a meeting Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti held with them, saying it was called to discuss the issue of detainees only and could not be seen as part of an effort to bring about reconciliation with the government.

"The government runs the affairs of the country and it is inevitable that we deal with it" to address issues of concern, said spokesman of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc Hamzeh Mansour. But, he told the Jordan Times, the opposition still believes the government is not qualified to lead.

Mr. Mansour said the meeting, the first between Mr. Kabariti and the opposition since tension escalated over the increase in the price of bread, was arranged by House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour after the opposition deputies demanded access to detainees held by the General Intelligence Department (GID) after the Aug. 16 and 17 riots in the south.

No issues other than those of the detainees were dis-

cussed in the meeting, which was partly attended by independent lawmakers, a statement by the opposition deputies said.

Mr. Mansour said that the lawmakers, who formed a 23-member opposition bloc in the House after the government announced it was lifting bread and fodder subsidies, demanded at the meeting that the government release all detainees and allow parliamentarians to visit those held in the GID prison.

In response, he said, the prime minister told the deputies that they can visit the detainees jailed in Swaqeh prison immediately while a visit to the GID will be allowed if people jailed there are not released "soon" or be referred to court. The Jordan New Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Kabariti as saying during a meeting with independent deputies that all the measures the government had taken comply with the law and that the issue of detainees was being handled with utmost responsibility and seriousness.

The prime minister earlier stressed that the judiciary will be the final arbiter in determining the future of detainees.

Mr. Srour said that he had "complete faith in the judi-

ciary" and described the meetings the premier held with the deputies as the continued dialogue between the legislative and executive authorities.

Mr. Mansour, whose opposition bloc boycotted House sessions after feuding with the government over the subsidies issue, quoted the prime minister as telling the lawmakers that all but 51 of the 521 detainees who were held after the riots in the south have been released. He said 145 persons were referred to courts while 34 among those still in custody have also been referred to court and 17 are still held by the GID prison for further investigation.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told journalists yesterday that 38 of those who have been referred to courts are political party members while 106 are not registered with any party.

Mr. Mansour said the issue of detainees is a high priority for the opposition and dialogue with the government cannot be effectively launched unless the matter is resolved.

He said the opposition seeks dialogue with the government but this dialogue cannot be launched unless the government

makes the political environment suitable by taking steps that would "give people and the deputies confidence in the government."

That, he said, cannot be achieved unless the government reverses the decision to lift the subsidy on bread and put an end to measures that have "made the situation in the country tense."

Mr. Mansour charged that some of the detainees had been held for over 20 days with no news about their whereabouts. He named Abdul Rahman Al Qatarnah, an Islamist activist, as one of those whose family was kept in the dark about his whereabouts.

"The fact that 410 detainees have been released without charges demonstrates the arrest campaign was unjustified," said the Islamist lawmaker.

But Mr. Mansour appeared unwilling to bury the hatchet with the government even if it met all its demands.

"There is a need to review all that happened," he said, "and there is a need to hold who made mistakes accountable. The government is responsible for all that happened and its continuation in office is a provocation to all Jordanians."

Dole turns up political heat by calling for tougher stand in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Republican White House candidate Bob Dole is calling for an even tougher stand against Baghdad in a game of one-upmanship over President Bill Clinton's Iraqi offensive he says is too little too late.

But, as the U.S. carries out airstrikes to halt Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's attacks on the Kurds, Mr. Dole has softened his usual partisan barbs directed at Mr. Clinton's "weak" foreign policy.

Wednesday in a speech to war veterans, Mr. Dole offered support for the mission but stressed: "If there is one clear lesson of our century it is this: when aggression is tolerated, it multiplies."

That is code for the kind of "foot dragging" Mr. Dole has often criticised Mr. Clinton for in areas such as NATO expan-

sion and action against Libya, Syria and Iran.

The former senate leader's grudging support for the Iraqi initiative mirrors his approach to Mr. Clinton's decision to send U.S. peacekeeping troops to Bosnia.

Mr. Dole had argued that if Mr. Clinton had gone against European allies and lifted the arms embargo allowing the Bosnians to defend themselves, it would have been unnecessary to put U.S. soldiers in the line of fire.

But Mr. Dole ultimately threw his backing behind the one-year deployment, stressing his wholehearted support for the troops if not the mission.

Wednesday from the campaign trail, Mr. Dole said the strikes on Iraq were the result of similar "weak leadership."

"We probably shouldn't have

to be doing what were doing," he told reporters in Iowa.

Mr. Dole is also raising the stakes in the wake of the strikes by insisting U.S. goals in Iraq should be even broader.

He has called for a pullout of troops from northern Iraq, the release of Kurdish prisoners and an end to Iraq's alleged support of international terrorism.

Dole advisor Paul Wolfowitz, a former defence official, said Wednesday that military action could be an option for achieving those goals but reiterated that it should not have been necessary.

More effort should have been made to bring the fighting Kurdish factions together, according to Mr. Wolfowitz, who also charged that Mr. Clinton's administration has been spineless in its dealings with U.S. allies.

Kurds still under Saddam's shadow despite U.S. attacks

DOHUK (AFP) — Iraqi Kurds said Wednesday they were still terrified of Saddam Hussein and what he might do next despite a double U.S. strike to punish the Iraqi president for his onslaught against Kurdish strongholds.

"I'm scared. Saddam is mad," said a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which invited President Saddam's forces into Iraqi Kurdistan to help it seize the main city of Erbil from its Kurdish rivals.

Iraqi forces tightened their grip on Kurdish areas in northern Iraq Tuesday despite a U.S. warning to withdraw backed up by a barrage of cruise missiles against Iraqi military targets, aid workers and residents said.

President Saddam's feared intelligence agents are sweeping through Erbil and his soldiers have taken control of towns further south, they said.

In the far northern Iraqi region of Dohuk near the border with Turkey, a young woman told AFP: "Even here the area is infested with Iraqi agents."

Residents watched in dismay as allied soldiers based in the border town of Zakho to monitor the Kurdish "safe haven" fled for Turkey on Tuesday. Most non-governmental aid agen-

cies in Iraqi Kurdistan followed their example.

U.S. warships and B-52 bombers launched operation "Desert Strike" on Tuesday, firing two salvos of cruise missiles at military targets in southern Iraq in the space of 24 hours.

The strikes were in retaliation for an Iraqi operation in the Kurdish north, the first since the allies set up a "safe haven" there after the 1991 Gulf war.

President Saddam took to television to give a defiant response, warning that he no longer recognised the allied-imposed "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq and would shoot down any foreign aircraft patrolling them.

Officially Iraqi troops pulled out of Erbil after seizing it from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Saturday.

But the Iraqi flag still flies over the town of some 800,000 inhabitants and Iraqi agents dressed as military policemen still patrol the streets, humanitarian workers said.

Meanwhile Iraqi tanks are deployed on the outskirts of the city and government troops occupy areas to the southeast around Degala and the southern towns of Kifri and Kalar, they said.

The KDP has taken steps to stamp its control on Erbil and has appointed a new

governor in the city, but life there is still far from normal.

"The city still has no water or electricity, which is normally provided from an area under PUK control. Shops are just beginning to open but their shelves are largely empty," an aid worker said.

KDP leader Massud Barzani gave a long televised address on Sunday to try to justify to frightened Kurds his decision to bring President Saddam back into their lives.

Hailing "the glorious Iraqi people and the friends of Kurds," Mr. Barzani accused the United States and its allies of failing to "show enough interest in our demands to protect our rights."

He said the PUK mistreated Erbil residents during its two-year hold on the town and had broken a ceasefire agreement to launch new attacks against the KDP on Aug. 16 with the help of Iranian troops.

When the world turned a deaf ear to the KDP's appeals for help "we asked for limited support from anyone who would not restrict our freedom or independence."

"Happily Iraq responded and we freed Erbil," Mr. Barzani said. "It's a glorious victory for all Kurds."

Turkey warns it might intervene in northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey warned Wednesday it might intervene militarily in northern Iraq against the Turkish Kurd separatist PKK, adding to tension in its neighbouring country.

"Turkey will take all the measures necessary to protect its borders and the security of its citizens," Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller told reporters.

Mrs. Ciller, who met U.S. Ambassador Marc Grossman to express Ankara's concern, said Turkey had received reports that the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) had stepped up activities on the Iraqi side of the border.

Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel later told reporters: "There is no Turkish military operation in Iraq at this time but Mrs. Ciller's words must be taken as a warning to all those with bad intentions."

"Some Kurdish groups in northern Iraq have told Turkey they were worried about the PKK's activities in the region."

Sources from Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which controls most of the border area on the Iraqi side, told AFP there were no new Turkish troop movements or buildup in the last few days.

The PKK uses Kurdish northern Iraq as a launchpad for attacks on Turkey as part of its violent 12-year campaign for an independent homeland in southeast Turkey. More than 20,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Mrs. Ciller's comments came after the United States launched a double wave of missile attacks against Iraq in retaliation for an Iraqi government offensive in the Kurdish north, an allied-imposed "safe haven."

Baghdad said it had withdrawn its troops from the main Kurdish city of Erbil on Tuesday, but aid workers in the region said Iraqi troops were still positioned outside the city and had taken control of areas to the south.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by the KDP and a rival Iraqi Kurd group in defiance of Baghdad and with allied air protection from a base in southeast Turkey since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Since the latest crisis erupted in Iraq last week, Turkey has been worried that the PKK would take advantage of the increased instability in northern Iraq.

Ankara says a power vacuum in Iraqi Kurdistan due to ongoing fighting between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has already made the PKK the third strongest force in

the region.

Foreign ministry sources say the PKK currently has at least 3,000 well-armed militants in bases and camps in northern Iraq, accusing them of launching frequent attacks inside Turkey.

The Turkish army, which keeps at least 200,000 troops in the southeast of Turkey, has often carried out operations inside Iraq. In the largest operation, nearly 35,000 Turkish troops supported by tanks and aircraft carried out a six-week incursion into northern Iraq between March and May last year.

Despite claims of success by the Turkish government after the incursion, the PKK has managed to restore its camps and bases in the region, according to military experts.

Netanyahu to meet Clinton on Monday

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet Monday with U.S. President Bill Clinton during a private visit to the United States, an Israeli spokesman said on Wednesday.

Mr. Netanyahu requested the meeting, which will be his second with the U.S. president since he came to office in June, spokesman Michael Stoltz said. Officials in the prime minister's office said Mr. Netanyahu was also seeking a meeting with Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole but that the arrangements had not yet been finalised.

Mr. Netanyahu was scheduled to fly to the United States on Monday and is due to attend a conference Tuesday in New York of the presidents of major Jewish American organisations, Mr. Stoltz said.

The prime minister is scheduled to return to Israel on Wednesday, he said. The Israeli leader made his first official foreign visit to Washington in July after his surprise election victory in May over Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Clinton had openly supported Mr. Peres during the election campaign, fearing that victory for Mr. Netanyahu and his right-

wing Likud Party would damage the peace process.

Israeli press reports citing senior government officials said there had been concerns in the prime minister's office that if Mr. Netanyahu did not meet Mr. Clinton even for a simple courtesy call it would be interpreted at home as a snub by the U.S. leader.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Tuesday that Mr. Clinton would refuse to meet Mr. Netanyahu if the Israeli leader had not first agreed to a summit with Mr. Arafat. The report quoted American Jewish leaders in close contact with the White House.

Bosnian presidential candidate tried in absentia

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, who is standing in Bosnian general elections set for next week, was put on trial Wednesday in what some observers said was a politically motivated action.

Mr. Abdic is charged with "war crimes against the civilian population and prisoners of war," for leading a rebellion in the Bihać region against Sarajevo rule. Bosnian court officials said.

Hasan Pljancic, chairman of the Bihać high court, said proceedings lasted some five hours during which the indictment against Mr. Abdic was read out and five witnesses were questioned.

In Sarajevo, an official with the international agency supervising Bosnia's elections, the

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said the trial looked politically motivated. "It's pretty strange they are holding this trial now. It looks like political manoeuvring to me," said the official who requested anonymity.

Currently living in exile in neighbouring Croatia, Mr. Abdic is seeking election as the Muslim member of Bosnia's new-look rotating presidency. He is, however, reviled by the ruling Sarajevo authorities as a traitor for siding with the Bosnian Serbs who besieged the Bihać region during the war.

Human rights observers have recorded numerous incidents of intimidation of Abdic supporters in the Bihać region where his party is running effectively an underground campaign.

This week a man, suspected of painting Abdic party slogans on the pavement was attacked by three men with an axe, human rights investigators said.

"This trial will have the de facto result of shutting down the activities of the DNZ (Abdic's party)," a human rights worker in Bosnia said.

Mr. Pljancic said the trial could last longer than ten days, "most probably up until the elections and longer."

The maverick millionaire said he would hold a press conference in Zagreb on Thursday to respond to the start of proceedings.

The Bihać region was plunged into civil war in 1993 when Mr. Abdic declared territory held by his forces, autonomous from Sarajevo.

Palestinian hijacker was seeking peace in Norway

OSLO (R) — A Palestinian who hijacked a Bulgarian charter plane to Oslo to seek political asylum has told his lawyer he wants to live in Norway because it is so peaceful compared to the Middle East.

Norwegian officials doubted, however, that he would get his wish given Norway's strict policy on air pirates. The hijacker was remanded in custody at a court hearing on Wednesday.

Tuesday's hijacking was the third to end in Norway since the Scandinavian state helped to broker the landmark 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace pact, leading some experts to suggest Oslo's profile as a peacemaker had made it an attractive destination for hijackers.

The 23-year-old Palestinian commandeered the Tupolev TU-154 on a flight from Beirut to Varna airport near Bulgaria's Black Sea coast. He released all 150 passengers before ordering the crew of eight to take off on the three-hour flight to Oslo.

About 45 minutes after the plane landed at Oslo's Gardermoen airport, the man gave himself up. No one was hurt and a bomb with which he had threatened the crew turned out to be a fake, police said.

Police have refused to identify the hijacker, in keeping with Norwegian legal practice.

Bulgarian officials had earlier named him as Nadir Abdullah, but he introduced himself to Norwegian police as Nazem Abdullah, according to a transcript of the radio conversation during the brief standoff published by Daily VG.

"He has declared he wants to live in peace in Norway and not at war in his own country," lawyer Jan Schjotvedt told reporters. "He wants to gain political asylum in Norway because he regards Norway as a peaceful country."

Norway's secret mediation between Israel and the PLO — the so-called Oslo channel — put Oslo at the centre stage of international diplomacy.

"The Oslo channel made people aware of what Norway stands for," said Kari Karame, a researcher at the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs.

"Maybe hijackers feel that Norway is a country that should do something for them because it advocates human rights so much," she told Reuters. "They know they get good treatment while they are here."

Three Iranians commandeered a Russian Aeroflot airliner on a domestic flight to Oslo in September 1993 — after Norway's role in the Middle East peace process became known — to protest against human rights abuses in Iran. They were sent back to Russia 16 months later.

Indonesia says Confucian marriage not legal

JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian court has ruled that a couple of Chinese descent who were married in a Confucian ceremony cannot be recognised as man and wife under local law, the Jakarta Post daily reported Wednesday. The Surabaya State Administrative Court upheld the decision of the local registry office to refuse a marriage certificate to Budi Wijaya and Lanny Guio because they would not register as belonging to one of Indonesia's five recognised religions, the newspaper said.

Indonesian law recognises only Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Confucianism has been described by the Ministry of Home Affairs as a philosophy, not a religion. Indonesia, an archipelago with a population of 195 million people, is 85 per cent Muslim but some 1.5 million of its citizens are followers of Confucianism.

Swearing banned in Mexican cities' markets

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — One dirty word and market vendors in Mexico's second city of Guadalajara could lose their jobs, according to a new city law. A new city ordinance says workers in city markets "are obliged to I — Observe high order and moral standards. II — Treat the public with due consideration. III — Use decent language." The new law forms part of applications for permits that vendors must sign in order to trade in city marketplaces. If a vendor breaks the law, his operating permit could be revoked. Guadalajara is known for efforts to strike a high moral ground in its laws. Earlier this year, officials told female employees of the Public Works Department they could no longer wear mini-skirts. Francisco Beruben, a stallholder at Guadalajara's El Mirador Market, told Reuters he's not sure the new law will keep everyone from biting their tongue. "You speak as you are spoken to," he said.

Computer scientists discover new largest prime number

CHICAGO (R) — Computer scientists at Cray Research say they have discovered the largest-known prime number, with 378,632 digits, enough to fill about 12 newspaper pages. Prime numbers can be divided evenly only by themselves and one. Examples include 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11. The new number was discovered at the company's facility in Wisconsin. According to Cray, the Greek mathematician Euclid proved that there is an infinite number of prime numbers, but they do not occur in a regular sequence and there is no formula for generating them. Cray said finding prime numbers is a "torture test" for supercomputers, which helps researchers learn new techniques for speeding up mathematical operations. The process requires randomly generating and testing millions of numbers. The number itself, however, is seen as simply a mathematical curiosity.

Elephant puts stamp on Sheikh Hasina's party

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R) — An elephant waiting to welcome Bangladesh's prime minister at a Hindu festival went berserk in Chittagong port city, injuring three devotees and damaging a shop, witnesses said. They said the elephant, apparently angered by the pulling of its tail by young enthusiasts, damaged the medicine shop before it could be tamed by its mahut. The rampaging animal triggered a security alarm before the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had visited the decorated venue of the "Jannashami Festival" due Wednesday. "The welcome ceremony went ahead undisrupted," a police officer told reporters.